



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 307134

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 05/11/2003
Inspector Name Jeanne Lesley Walsh

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Elm Cottage Nursery, Orrishmere
Setting Address Orrishmere Primary School
Worcester Road
Cheadle Hulme
Cheadle
SK8 5NW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Yvonne Thomas

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

Elm Cottage Day Nursery at Orrishmere has been open for six years and is registered to care for a maximum of 29 children at any one time.

It operates from its own premises within the grounds of Orrishmere Primary School and is part of the Elm Cottage group of day care, facilities that includes both day nurseries and out of school clubs. The nursery has sole use of the premises, which are all on ground floor level. There are four distinct areas and the children are grouped according to age and developmental stages. The children also have access to a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. This includes a large shaded lawn area and a soft play area. The nursery serves a wide catchment area.

There are currently 54 children under five years on roll. This includes funded three and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting also supports children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week for 51 weeks a year from 08:00hrs to 18:00hrs.

A dedicated team of staff care for the children and the majority have early years qualifications. Those who do not, are currently training to gain a recognised early years qualification. The setting also has a qualified teacher.

How good is the Day Care?

Elm Cottage Day Nursery at Orrishmere provides a good standard of care for children.

A high proportion of staff are suitably qualified and experienced and the general organisation enables them to work closely with the children to offer good care and support. Staff are well supported by the management team and have opportunities to access training and attend courses. The children are grouped according to their age and stage of development and are cared for in a clean, warm and stimulating environment. Space is well organised to ensure that they can play safely and comfortably. The nursery has good systems for sharing records with parents and ensuring that they are kept up to date.

Staff are aware of hazards and have taken steps to reduce most risks although there are some hazards in the garden. Good hygiene is evident in the nursery and children

learn through the daily routine. Discussion with parents informs staff of any special dietary needs and meals are provided according to their wishes and are presented as a social occasion. Equal opportunity issues are promoted well within the daily activities of the nursery and information from parents help staff to provide appropriate care for each child. Staff work closely with parents and any agencies involved in the care of a special needs child and they have an awareness of child protection issues.

There is a good balance of free play and adult initiated activity within the setting. Children are encouraged to make choices for themselves and effective systems ensure that staff can monitor their progress. Babies are cared for by a consistent staff team who are experienced and enthusiastic. The nursery has an effective policy for behaviour management.

Daily discussion and regular written information keeps parents informed of children's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection there were two actions made relating to records. One to ensure parents are made aware of any accidents to the children and the other to give parents and staff information on how to make complaints. The accident record is now always signed by the parent and the nursery brochure now contains details of the complaints procedure should parents have any concerns.

What is being done well?

- Effective procedures protect children from persons who are not vetted and the general organisation of the nursery is good enabling staff to work closely with the children to offer good care and support.
- The children are grouped according to their age and stage of development. This is made flexible to meet the individual needs of the children so that children move on to the next group only when they are ready, ensuring that they feel secure and confident. Key workers monitor children's individual development and share information with parents about their progress and needs.
- A good balance of free play and adult initiated activity is offered and children are able to choose from a wide range of play materials, which are made easily accessible to them, encouraging independence. Activities link to the learning areas and children's individual needs and are interesting, stimulating and fun. The positive interaction between staff and children results in the children being happy and confident and learning.
- Babies are cared for by a consistent staff team who are experienced and enthusiastic and they work closely with parents to ensure that the babies' individual needs are being met. They provide a stimulating environment with a range of suitable activities and equipment for the babies.
- The nursery has an effective policy for behaviour management, which is

successful in practice. Staff know the children well and they treat them with respect, speak to them politely and encourage them to be polite to each other. Their consistent praise and encouragement results in the children feeling confident and secure and having good self-esteem and behaving well.

What needs to be improved?

- the dressing up area to be further developed to give variety and extend childrens ease of access and imagination
- the security to ensure that you are in control of who enters the garden and that any hazardous plants are inaccessible to the children
- the reporting to Ofsted of any serious accidents that occur in the nursery
- the provision of a trained member of staff who has responsibility for child protection issues and develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
6	Make sure that you are in control of who enters the garden and that any hazardous plants are inaccessible to the children.
7	Ensure you inform Ofsted of any serious accidents that occur in the nursery.
13	Ensure that there is a trained member of staff who has responsibility for child protection issues and develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues through training.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.