



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY292630

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/02/2005
Inspector Name Sylvia Cornock

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Stepping Stones
Setting Address C/O United Utilities
Lingley Mere
Great Sankey
Warrington
WA5 3LP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Dan Leisure Group Ltd 2684735

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Dan Leisure Group Ltd
Address Acorn House
Houghton Street
Warrington
Cheshire
WA2 7DD

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

Stepping Stones Nursery is run by The Dan Leisure Group Ltd. It opened in 2004. It operates from within a modular building within the Lingley Mere site of United Utilities, Great Sankey, Warrington. The children are cared for in nine age appropriate rooms. The nursery is open to employees on site and to the general public.

There are currently 78 children from birth to five years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 19-funded three year olds and four funded four-year-old children. The setting currently supports children with special needs. There do not have any children who speak English as an additional language.

A maximum of 94 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery opens five days Monday to Friday, from 08:00 to 18:00 all year round.

There are 13 full time and five part time members of staff who work directly with the children, of whom nine have an early years childcare qualification, NVQ level three or NNEB and five have an NVQ level two qualification. Two members of staff are currently undertaking NVQ level two.

The setting receives support from a teacher from Sure Start Early Years.

How good is the Day Care?

Overall the day care is judged to be satisfactory. The organisation of the day care setting is satisfactory, the environment offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It has accessible storage and good equipment levels. Staff are suitably qualified and deployed. Appropriate child details and all other documentation is kept well. However they do not have a system for recording visitors to the nursery.

The safety and care of children is well attended to in the areas of health, food and drink and hygiene, although there are differences in the organisation at meal times in the computer room, resulting in children walking around the room with food. There is system in place for the recording of accidents and medication, however medication given is not always recorded. Risk assessments are completed and acted upon. Children's behaviour is good, although staff are not aware of the nominated person for behaviour management. Staffs knowledge and understanding about child protection is limited and is an area which needs developing.

The range and quality of the activities are good. Staff provide well planned activities which are evaluated to ensure all children's achievements and progress are monitored. Staff ratios mean that children's individual needs are well attended to. Individual age appropriate rooms are staffed by the same staff members which ensures continuity of care for children. Good behaviour is reinforced with frequent praise. All children have equal access to all activities.

Partnership with parents is good. They are given good quality information about the aims and objectives of the setting. They are kept informed about their child's day through informal verbal daily contact and with daily written reports being completed for the younger children. Parents comment on the friendly and caring staff.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- The level of staff qualifications held is good. Staff are undertaking training to ensure they exceed the requirements for qualifications. they ensure that ongoing training is available to maintain staff skill levels.
- Children are happy and secure within the setting, they form good relationships with each other and staff. They are able to select good quality and plentiful resources for themselves, allowing them to operate independently within the learning environment.
- The wide range of play materials, equipment and resources allows children the opportunity to progress in all areas of development. Children find play materials and equipment stimulating, fun and interesting providing sufficient challenge in the process.
- Partnership with parents is very good. They are provided with good information about the care and education provided. They are kept well informed about children's progress and daily activities.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedure for the registration of visitors to the premises.
- the recording of medication administered to children.
- the procedures for ensuring that staff are aware of the nominated person's name for behaviour management and child protection, and the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child protection issue .
- the encouragement of all children to sit at the tables when eating meals.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last

inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
13	develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and ensure that the child protection procedure for the nursery complies with local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures	31/03/2005

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

Std	Recommendation
2	ensure a record is kept of all visitors to the premises.
3	encourage all children to sit at the tables when eating meals for the safety and care of others.
7	ensure a written record of medication administered is recorded at all times.
11	ensure that all staff are aware of the named staff member who is responsible for behaviour management issues

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.