



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY288187

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 18/11/2004
Inspector Name Carys Millican

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name First Steps and Out of School Facility
Setting Address Newtown Primary School
Newtown Road
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7LW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Dorothy Jane Blacklock

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

First Steps Day Nursery and Out of School facility is run by the management committee of Newtown Community Learning Centre. It opened in 2003 and operates from three rooms in a purpose built building, situated within the grounds and premises of Newtown Community School in Carlisle. The facility is registered to provide a breakfast club, full day care and holiday play scheme. A maximum of 32 children may attend the nursery or holiday play scheme at any one time and a maximum of 16 children may attend breakfast club. The nursery is open from 08.00 to 18.00 for 50 weeks of the year. The breakfast club is not currently operating, as there is a separate provision within the school. The children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 33 children aged 6 months to 5 years on roll. The nursery does not provide funded nursery education, but works in partnership with the school to provide wraparound care. Children come from a wide catchment area. The nursery currently supports one child who speaks English as a second language. There are no children attending with special educational needs.

The nursery employs six staff. Five of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate childcare and education qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification. The nursery is part of the neighbourhood nursery scheme and is supported by Sure Start, Cumbria.

How good is the Day Care?

First Steps Nursery and Out of School facility provides good quality care for children. The staff and volunteers have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The children are happy and well supported. The playrooms are warm, welcoming and bright. They are creatively organised to provide an extensive range of interesting and stimulating play areas for all the children. The children are able to move easily between activities and choose from the accessible good quality play equipment. Documentation is generally good and confidentiality maintained.

Health and Safety standards are good. The fire evacuation procedures are in place and carried out regularly. There is a clear health and safety policy and the premises are clean and well maintained. Children's individual needs are well catered for. Snacks provided are healthy and nutritious. The staff have an appropriate understanding of child protection issues and meeting children's special needs.

A range of age appropriate activities are provided making use of the good selection of play equipment and resources. Extensive planning is in place with opportunities for free play and adult initiated activities related to age and individual abilities. The children are occupied with imaginative play opportunities, so they are learning as they play. The interaction with the staff and children is positive, within a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Good behaviour is promoted through praise and encouragement. The children are well behaved and respond well to adults.

The relationship with parents is good, with positive comments and feedback received from parents. Several ways are used to share information including the notice board, daily record sheets and communication books. Staff and parents work closely to ensure each child receives appropriate care.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- The premises are clean and well maintained. The children's work is creatively displayed to create a warm and welcoming environment. The rooms are well set out to provide stimulating play areas, which maintain children's interest and encourage learning opportunities. There is a good range of clean, appropriate play equipment to support planned activities.
- Children benefit from the age appropriate activities, which are interesting, stimulating and varied. They are planned well according to early years learning outcomes and birth to three matters. Adults are friendly and supportive, joining in the activities, which are enjoyed by the children.
- The nutritional needs of the children are well understood and provided for. Children's particular needs such as allergies are clearly identified and understood by all staff. The staff promote a healthy eating programme daily and the children choose the fruit they would like to eat during snack time.
- Children behave in a co-operative, calm way and staff provide good role models being polite to one another and the children. Good behaviour is encouraged through positive strategies, helping children to learn good ways of relating to one another and promote self esteem. The babies' individual needs are adhered to and records are kept throughout the day.
- Parents are made welcome and receive a good amount of information about the nursery and their children. There are good systems in place to ensure that staff understand the children's needs and parents' wishes. Parents show a good level of satisfaction with the setting. As a result children's needs are well met.

What needs to be improved?

- the maintaining and reviewing of the operational plan and the settings

policies and procedures.

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

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
13	Update the Child Protection policy and procedure following ACPC guidelines and Ofsted requirements regarding allegations and to include contact details.
14	Review the operational plan and policies and procedures to include the breakfast club, the transfer of children to and from school and specialist activities.

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.