



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 141798

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/04/2004
Inspector Name Cordalee Harrison

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Open University Children's Centre
Setting Address Walton Hall
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK7 6AA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Open University Children's Centre mk12 f
278304

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Open University Children's Centre
Address Walton Hall
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK7 6AA

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

The Children's Centre opened in 1978. It operates from a purpose built premises, which is located on Open University complex Walton Hall Milton Keynes. The main users of the children centre are children whose parents are involved in the University.

There are currently 59 children from three months to under five years on roll. This includes 19 funded three-year-olds and 7 funded four-year-olds. The children attend a variety of sessions. The setting is experienced at supporting children with special needs and children for whom English is an additional language.

The group opens weekdays all year round. Sessions are from 8:30 until 18:00 Monday to Thursday and from 8:30 until 17:30 on Fridays.

Twenty-three staff work in the children centre. Twenty have an early years qualification. The group is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and the Play Association; it also receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

The Open University Children Centre provides good quality care for children. The centre is welcoming to parents and children. The premises is maintained, safe, bright and clean; it is presented with consideration to the varying ages of the user group. The setting operates with an experienced manager and a high number of qualified and experienced staff, who work effectively, to ensure that children's individual needs are met. Children are settled in the centre and are familiar with the routines.

A wide variety of nutritious main meals are provided, and children's individual dietary needs are met. Parents provide teatime snacks. Meals times are well organised with consideration to the presentation of food in all areas. A record of children's intake of food and drink is kept in the baby room. Good hygiene practices are included in the nursery routine. Staff are aware of safety issues; systematic checks are used to ensure that safety measures continue to be effective. Staff are clear about lines of communication in regards to child protection issues.

Children throughout the centre benefit from a range of planned activities, which are

based on the early years curriculum. The centre has very good play resources including materials to help children learn about diversity and to deliver the equal opportunities policy. Children with special needs are well provided for. Observational records are completed for all children in the setting. Staff interact positively with the children throughout the centre. Staff set consistent boundaries, they praise the children; children behave well and a calm atmosphere is achieved.

The centre works well with parents and carers. Verbal information is exchanged with parents daily. Parents are provided with written information for children in the baby room daily. Most documentation required including policies and procedures are in place; some policies lack the necessary details and there is no written medication procedure.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the previous inspection an action was imposed to provide a more varied range of activities for children aged 18 months to three years. A varied range of activities is planned and delivered for children aged 18 months to three years; these children have access to a wide range of stimulating activities, they are purposefully engaged and progress all areas of their development.

What is being done well?

- The setting is well organised. A high number of staff are suitably qualified and effectively deployed throughout the setting. Staff give children their attention in care and play. Children are settled; they display a range of emotions to be expected of the varying age range.
- An excellent range of toys and equipment is available in the setting, the resources are used to support all areas of the children's development and provide staff with the appropriate tools for their work.
- Healthy meals are provided for the children daily; children eat well and enjoy their food. Meal times are used effectively to encourage the development of children's social skills and independence.
- The staff provide a wide range of activities throughout the nursery. Children in all groups are involved in a variety of interesting activities; children enjoy themselves and learn through play. Books are used positively in all areas of the nursery. Good use is made of the well equipped outside play area to the benefit of all of the children in the centre.

What needs to be improved?

- medication procedure, develop a written procedure for managing medication in the group and obtain parent's written permission for emergency medical treatment if necessary
- documentation, ensure that the record of attendance includes information about the hours of children's attendance and provides clear information about

the entire procedure to be followed in the event of failure to collect a child.
Make relevant information about the registering authority available to parents.

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
7	Make sure there is a procedure in place to manage medication in the Centre and obtain parent's written permission to seek emergency treatment if necessary.
14	Ensure that the record of attendance includes information about the hours of children's attendance and provides clear information about the entire procedure to be followed in the event of failure to collect a child.

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.