



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 509576

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/11/2003
Inspector Name Anne Munro

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Stepping Stones Day Care
Setting Address 74 Eling Lane
Totton
Southampton
Hampshire
SO40 9GF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Tracy Griffiths

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 Day Nursery opened in 1997. It operates from a converted house in a residential area of Eling. The premises are divided into units for children under and over two years old. Children have access to an enclosed rear garden for outside play. Children attending come from a wide surrounding area.

There are currently 76 children on roll, from three months to under five years old. This includes 13 funded three-year-olds and five funded four-year-olds. The nursery currently supports a small number of children with special needs or with English as a second language.

The nursery is open from 08:00 to 18:00 on Monday to Friday, 50 weeks of the year. Children attend a variety of sessions.

There are six full-time and nine part-time staff working with the children. Most of the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level two or three, and two are currently working towards a recognised qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Hampshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones Day Nursery provides good care for children in a bright, warm and welcoming environment. A strong management structure and regular, well-qualified staff ensure continuity of care. Clear policies and procedures underpin the running of the nursery, and provision is constantly evaluated and improved.

Staff have very good understanding of safety issues and carry out regular risk assessments. Precautions to safeguard children are in place throughout the nursery. All staff have first aid qualifications and effective procedures are in place to handle illness or injury. The nursery provides nutritious meals and snacks, respecting parents' wishes and promoting healthy eating. The daily routines of babies are accommodated according to parents' wishes. Staff are experienced in catering for allergies and special diets.

The nursery has an excellent range of toys and equipment which is easily accessible to children. Staff have very good knowledge of children's capabilities and plan a balanced range of activities to promote individual development. Methods of

recording children's progress need to be reviewed. Staff work well with the children, using praise and encouragement to reinforce good behaviour and develop self-esteem.

Parents are made welcome in the nursery and develop good working relationships with their children's key workers. They share information regularly and are encouraged to participate in their children's learning. The nursery keeps accurate records with careful attention to confidentiality, and most storage is secure.

What has improved since the last inspection?

This does not apply as the last inspection was a transitional inspection.

What is being done well?

- There is a strong management structure and a well-established staff providing consistent care for children. Staff members are supported in updating their skills and knowledge and have clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- The nursery employs an effective key worker system enabling staff members to have very good knowledge of the children in their care. The staff use their observations and assessments in planning activities and ensure that the needs of individual children are addressed.
- The nursery provides a very good range of high quality toys and equipment, which is regularly cleaned and renewed. Children are able to make choices from accessible storage units throughout the nursery, encouraging them to develop in independence and confidence.
- Staff develop strong working relationships with parents, providing them with good information and encouraging communication. They are flexible in accommodating family routines and respecting parents' wishes. They welcome parents into the nursery and involve them in their children's learning.

What needs to be improved?

- records of children's progress
- storage of confidential information about children.

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
3	review system of recording children's progress to show progress through the stepping stones towards the Early Learning Goals.
14	ensure that confidential information about children is stored securely.

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.