



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 250044

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	10/07/2003
Inspector Name	Mary Pratty

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	First Choice Childcare - Langley
Setting Address	Langley Primary School St Bernards Road Solihull

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Dawn Ekins
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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 Choice Childcare is situated in the grounds of Langley Junior and Infant School in Olton, Solihull.

The privately owned single storey premises opened in March 2000. A full range of day care services are provided, including nursery care, holiday play care, before and after school and a wrap around service for children attending Langley Nursery. The nursery has three main play rooms plus kitchen, bathroom and staff/office facilities available.

There are currently 94 children from 2 -11 years on roll.

The nursery intends to offer funded places for three and four year olds and has applied to receive grant funding.

The provision is open five days a week from 07.30 - 18.00 hours with a brief shut down between Christmas and the New Year.

There are a total of 10 staff employed. Seventy percent of the staff hold a child care qualification. The proprietor and four staff are in the process of undertaking training in order to obtain qualifications.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

First Choice Childcare provides good care for children.

The setting provides a warm and welcoming environment with interesting displays of the children's art work and other activities.

Staff work well together, they attend regular training opportunities and have a good knowledge of policies and procedures. Some documentation needs to be reviewed in order to ensure that all aspects of the service are well supported with relevant information.

Overall staff pay good attention to health and safety and effective procedures are in place to ensure that children are safe. However the current lack of hot water to the

premises must be rectified, as this has an impact on hygiene standards. In addition the maintenance programme has not included regular attention to paintwork and this has resulted in the need for internal repainting of the premises.

Within each area, children can access a wide range of developmentally appropriate resources. Activities and resources are set out creatively in order to provide challenge and to attract the children's interest. This encourages children to make independent choices and decisions about their play and learning.

Within the nursery, overall there is a good balance of planned activities and time for free play. Currently planning is not clearly linked to ongoing observations of children's progress.

All children have regular access to outside play, however there is no planned focus for nursery and this can result in resources and activities remaining unchanged during the day.

Staff provide consistent guidance and clear explanations about behaviour. This enables children to understand expectations and they learn to co-operate and behave well.

Staff have very good relationships with children and parents. This enables staff to meet individual needs by working in partnership with parents. Parents are provided with regular verbal and written information about general progress, activities, daily routine and topics.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection an action plan was required to indicate how risk assessment would be implemented and how nappy changing facilities would be provided. Regular risk assessment has been introduced and the manager has attended training in order to develop her knowledge. The nappy changing facility has been relocated and children's needs are met appropriately.

In addition it was required that provision be made to restrict access to the kitchen. A gate is now in place and children can only have supervised access for specific activities.

Improvements to documentation was also required with regard to;

detailing the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff;

providing a system to enable parents to acknowledge that medications have been administered;

providing written evidence that fire extinguishers are maintained annually.

Documentation regarding child protection now includes clear guidance regarding the procedure, should allegations be made against a member of staff. All staff have up

dated their child protection training.

Parents are required to sign the medications book in order to acknowledge that medications have been given and the fire extinguishers are labelled to indicate regular maintenance.

What is being done well?

- Activities for out of school children include regular opportunities to explore and learn about differences and similarities with regard to diversity. This enables children to learn to value and respect themselves and others.
- Interaction is very good. Staff take time to listen to and talk with the children. This helps children feel valued, develops self esteem and encourages good behaviour.
- Staff are flexible and sensitive in their approach to the daily routine. They accommodate individual needs, for example leaving a child to wake up naturally, even though the rest of the group had awoken.
- Established daily hygiene routines, help children learn about good hygiene practice.
- Staff act as good role models as they interact together and with the children. They use praise and encouragement to help children strive to behave well.

What needs to be improved?

- deployment of staff during lunch time;
- planning, with regard to linking ongoing observations to future planning for individual children;
- provision of hot water;
- internal maintenance of paintwork;
- documentation.

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
2	review the deployment of staff at lunch time, to ensure that sleep facilities can be prepared in readiness for rest time;
3	develop a system that enables staff to record ongoing observations that can be used to inform planning. Include specific aims when planning outdoor activities;
4	ensure that there is access to hot water within the toilet facilities;
4	develop a maintenance programme that ensures that the premises are in a suitable state of decoration;
14	ensure that the accident book, is consistently signed by parents, ensure that statements regarding, equal opportunities and special educational needs encompass details of current legislation, ensure that all documentation is relevant to the different aspects of care offered, ensure that child protection information is shared with parents.

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.