



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 303440

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 01/03/2005
Inspector Name Judith Anne Kerr

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name Highfield Day Nursery and Link Club
Setting Address Highfield Road
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7DJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Paul Hurst & Roy Godwin
Address Highfield Day Nursery
Highfield Road
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7DJ

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

Highfield Day Nursery and Link Club is one of two nurseries under the same ownership. It opened in 1992 and operates from 5 rooms in a former hospital that has been converted to provide suitable ground and first floor accommodation. It is situated in a residential area close to the town centre of Widnes. A maximum of 95 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 all the year round. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 114 children aged from 6 months to 11 years on roll. Of these 35 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local catchment area as most parents travel to work. The nursery currently supports no children with special educational needs and no children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 22 staff. Seventeen of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Highfield Day Nursery and Link Club provides satisfactory care for children. Children are grouped according to age and development and staff are deployed effectively to ensure that ratios are maintained. Staff are suitably qualified and experienced, work well as a team and are clear about their roles. New employees receive an satisfactory induction package to help them understand the operation of the nursery. Children relate well to the staff and are happy, confident and secure in their care. After school care allows children opportunities to relax, play games or complete homework. Most documentation is in place, however some elements are not shared with parents or available on the day of inspection.

The premises are maintained to a good standard. Most aspects relating to safety are satisfactory. Risk assessments are carried out on a regular basis. Children are encouraged to adopt good hygiene practices throughout the setting. The nursery provides a varied range of meals and snacks. Individual dietary needs are recorded and respected at all times. The nursery has a positive attitude towards children with special needs.

Staff understand children's development and there is a commitment to improvement through training. The children are happy and settled but at times not engaged in purposeful play. Staff are consistent in their approach to managing children's behaviour; children respond and behave well. The nursery has a positive attitude towards children with special needs with procedures in place to meet individual needs if the need arises. The staff team all have an understanding of child protection issues, though some members of staff are unclear about their responsibilities.

Good relationships are established with parents. Verbal feedback from parents indicate they have a high regard for the provision and quality of service provided.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the nursery agreed to observe and record what children do and use the information to plan for the next step of children's play and learning, devise a system for planning and implementing a suitable range of activities for children under 3 years, conduct a risk assessment on the premises and keep a record of significant incidents.

Some limited short term planning is now in place, regular risk assessments are undertaken and a record of significant incidents is maintained. The partial completion of these actions has made a small impact on the quality of play opportunities offered to children. The completion of the risk assessments and documentation has improved the safety of children.

What is being done well?

- The partnership with parents and carers is good. Parents speak well of the provision and are pleased with the way children settle in quickly and are happy. They note that children do not want to go home from the nursery.
- Children are settled, have warm relationships with staff and communicate well with them. Babies individual routines are respected. Staff have loving, warm relationships with the babies, spending time comforting and nursing them. Staff handle behaviour management in calm, clear consistent ways which is age appropriate to their development and understanding.

What needs to be improved?

- the observation of children, recording what they do and the planning of activities
- the safety of the premises inside
- the staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures
- the procedures for documentation

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.)

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint relating to National Standard 6 (Safety) about the safety of children playing outside. Ofsted carried out an unannounced inspection on 13 December 2004 and found steps had been taken to improve the security of the premises to ensure children's safety. The nursery agreed that National Standard 6 was not met at the time of the complaint.

An additional fence and gate have been erected in the outside area. Signs on the gates to advise parents to lock the gates behind them have been replaced with large luminous signs. Procedures for outdoor play have been reviewed and amended. There is now a designated member of staff for supervising gates and no more outdoor play at the end of the day when parents are collecting children.

The nursery met National Standard 6 on the day of the visit. No actions were made. The registration holder remains qualified for registration.

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

Std	Recommendation
3	Devise a system for planning and implementing a suitable range of activities for children, which is appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs.
6	Make sure that kitchens and laundry are inaccessible to the children.
13	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.
14	Keep all records relating to day care activities readily accessible on the premises maintained and up to date and available for inspection at all times. Keep a written record, signed by parents, of all medication given to children.

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.