



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 221580

DfES Number: 515604

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 07/01/2004  
Inspector Name Susan Christine Mcguire

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Sawtry Day Nursery  
Setting Address Fen Lane  
Sawtry  
Huntingdon  
Cambridgeshire  
PE28 5TQ

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Sawtry Day Nursery Ltd 03560864

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Sawtry Day Nursery Ltd  
Address Fen Lane  
Sawtry  
Huntingdon  
Cambridgeshire  
PE28 5TQ

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

### Information about the setting

Sawtry Day Nursery opened in 1993. It operates in its own premises in the grounds of Sawtry Community College. The nursery serves the local area.

There are currently 54 children from 0 to 5 years on roll. This includes 10 funded 3 year olds and 7 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week all year round. Sessions are from 7.45 am until 6.00 pm.

4 part-time and 7 full-time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. 3 staff will shortly be working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Child Care partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

Sawtry Day Nursery provides good care for children.

Good procedures are in place for the recruitment and induction of staff, and emphasis is given to ensuring staff are suitably trained for working with children. The staff work well as a team and create a warm and welcoming environment for the families who attend. The nursery is well equipped for children under five years. The successful management of the nursery is supported by well written policies and procedures, which mostly meet the requirements of the National Standards.

Staff show a good awareness of safety issues and procedures are in place to ensure children can play safely both indoors and outside. Children are encouraged to manage their personal hygiene and to practice good manners and consideration of others. Meals and snacks are prepared on the premises, and are healthy and nutritious. Individual dietary needs are catered for.

Children benefit from the wide variety of activities provided, which take individual needs into account and offer appropriate challenge to the children's stage of development. A range of resources are used which give positive images of the multi-cultural nature of society. There are excellent relationships between staff and children, and confidence and self-esteem are fostered through the frequent use of praise and encouragement. Behaviour is good.

The partnership between the nursery and parents is exemplary. Parents are kept very well informed about the nursery and their child through the daily exchange of verbal information and by receipt of excellent documentation.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last inspection the nursery agreed to improve documentation by developing an operational plan, which would include a lost/uncollected child procedure, by adding a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff to the child protection policy, and by providing a procedure for safe conduct on outings. All these improvements have been carried out and made available for parents to see. The nursery also agreed to record the times of arrival and departure of children, staff and visitors daily. This is now routine practice, with parents themselves signing their children in and out.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff make sure that they know the children well, and are proactive in ensuring the needs of individuals are met.
- Staff provide excellent role models for the children, who in turn are very caring towards each other. Behaviour is very good.
- A good balance of free-play and group activities are provided in each area of the nursery, which are appropriate to the stage of development of the children involved.
- Space is used well to create separate areas for each group of children, yet enabling them to move freely around the nursery and meet with friends or siblings, but still under the supervision of staff.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

Partnership with parents is excellent. Staff take time to greet each family on arrival and to talk about the child's day on departure. This relationship is also maintained and supported by the exchange of written information about how the child spent their day, and by explaining the curriculum. (Standard 12)

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the complaints procedure, so that the role of Ofsted is made clear to parents
- first aid arrangements, so that written permission is sought for the seeking of necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

**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
14	Improve documentation by clarifying the role of Ofsted in the complaints procedure, and by ensuring that parents give written permission for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

## INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

### How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Sawtry Day Nursery is of a high quality. It enables children to make very good progress in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is excellent. Staff create a relaxed atmosphere where children are confident to try. They value children's ideas and praise their efforts. Knowledge of the Foundation Stage and the early learning goals is very good and staff fully understand the learning intentions of planned activities. They have good questioning skills and recognise unplanned opportunities to develop children's learning. Staff know the children well and present new ideas in a manner appropriate to their level of understanding, being committed to helping each child reach their full potential. Planning is clear and the process for using assessment effectively is being reviewed. Staff take part in on-going training.

Leadership and management is very good. The staff work well together and are aware of each other's roles. The proprietor is very involved with the day-to-day running of the nursery and there is mutual respect between her and the staff. Time is built into the weekly routine to allow for discussion and planning. The proprietor has devised good procedures for staff induction and carries out regular staff appraisals. The staff and proprietor are committed to the improvement in their care and education of the children and are constantly self-evaluating and acting on their findings. The nursery has built a good liaison with the local primary school.

There is an excellent partnership with parents, who speak highly of the nursery. There is a daily exchange of information about the child on arrival and departure. Parents are provided with well-organised paperwork about the provision and on-going information about the Foundation Stage and the six areas of learning. Staff encourage parents to share their knowledge of their children, and to be involved in their learning. Parental feedback is welcomed.

### What is being done well?

- Staff have excellent knowledge of the Foundation Stage and plan effectively so that activities cover the six areas of learning.
- Provision for children who have special needs is excellent. Staff adapt activities so that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- Children's physical development is very good. Staff recognise that children need to 'let off steam' during the day, and ensure that time is given for this both indoors and outdoors.

### What needs to be improved?

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- opportunities for counting in everyday situations.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Very good progress has been made in addressing the key issues identified at the last inspection.

A book area has been provided which houses a range of culturally diverse books. This has been comfortably arranged and children access it throughout the day.

Plans have been developed to show groupings of children, and methods of doing this are again under review by staff.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy and relaxed in the setting and respond to activities with interest and enthusiasm. They are confident and articulate with adults and visitors. Staff encourage children to self-care e.g. putting coats on, and to consider the needs of others. Staff are good role models in this regard. Children share activities well and take turns. Behaviour is good. Staff constantly give verbal praise and encouragement to children, and award stickers for all levels of achievement.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident in recognising letter-sounds and older children can recognise and write their names unaided. They access books for pleasure and information, and respond well to group stories, enjoying predicting what happens next. Most children are confident speakers in group situations and are beginning to use language for negotiation. Staff take opportunities to introduce new vocabulary e.g. condensation, and rhyming words are explored. Children use a variety of tools for mark making.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children can count forwards and backwards with confidence in songs and rhymes. They can sort into types and recognise shape and colour through daily practice e.g. "sit on the green triangle". Older, more able children are beginning to problem-solve in planned and unplanned activities e.g. candles needed on a play dough birthday cake. Positional language is used in context by children and numerals are displayed and recognised. Some opportunities are missed to count in everyday situations.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing a strong sense of time and place through topics, which use the local environment as a starting point, and they discuss past and present events with understanding. Children operate cassette players, computers and programmable toys. Opportunities are given for developing design skills with free-choice sticking and construction activities. Knowledge of the world is introduced by celebrating the culture of nursery families and by using maps to look at holiday routes.

## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently and with control on a range of indoor and outdoor equipment, which enables them to climb, balance, and pedal. A variety of tools are used with increasing skill e.g. scissors, and children manipulate in threading activities and by dressing dolls. A high priority is given to ensuring children have fresh air and exercise daily if possible. Health and body awareness is introduced in topic work and in discussion e.g. being out of breath after activity.

## **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy exploring a variety of textures and media as free-choice and planned activities e.g. dough, paint, whiteboards and different adhesives. Children like to sing and have a good repertoire of remembered songs. They also move enthusiastically to music. There are daily opportunities for role-play and staff become involved when invited to. Children show enthusiasm for dressing-up and are provided with a wide variety of costumes for this. Children's own artwork is valued and displayed.

**Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.**



### **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

### **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT**

*There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:*

- Point for consideration
- Consider how everyday activities such as snack-time can be used to give children opportunities to count.

*The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.*

## **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.*