



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 126975

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/12/2003
Inspector Name Freeda Wildon

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Apples Nursery
Setting Address Saga Pavillion
Enbrook Park, Sandgate High Street
Folkestone
Kent
CT20 3SE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name SAGA Group Ltd

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name SAGA Group Ltd
Address Saga Group Ltd, Enbrook Park
Sandgate High Street, Sandgate
Folkestone
Kent
CT20 3SE

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

Apples Nursery is a privately run setting, which first opened in 1998. The nursery is owned by Saga and caters only for parents working within the Saga sites in Folkestone and Sandgate.

The nursery occupies purpose built facilities, which include a baby unit, over two's open-plan area and ball pool room. The children have constant access to outside play in fine weather.

The nursery is registered for children from birth to five years of age and is open each weekday from 08.30 to 18.00, throughout the year. There is also an after school and holiday club. There are currently 156 children on roll, of whom 30 are funded 3 year-olds and 22 of who are funded 4 year-olds. The nursery has experience in providing for children who speak English as an additional language and for children with special needs.

There are 25 staff who work directly with the children on a rota basis plus 3 supernumerary staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery has received advice and support from a qualified teacher through the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

The Apples Nursery provides satisfactory care for children under eight years.

The staff are qualified and experienced in childcare. Most documentation required for the smooth running of the nursery and out of school club (OOSC) is kept effectively, although some are not in line with current guidance and policies are not easily accessible to parents. The details of the registered person are not kept on the premises. Staff generally have a sound knowledge of the National Standards. The premises are spacious, with designated areas for different activities, but staff are not effectively deployed resulting in the ratio not being met at all times and there are more than 26 children in one room.

Premises are safe, secure and clean, although there is no risk assessment policy in place and in the OOSC fire extinguishers are stored in the toilet. Health and hygiene procedures are effective resulting in very clean and well maintained premises. Mealtimes are relaxed social occasions, and staff promote children's independence,

parents are welcome to join children for lunch. Although staff are able to act in a child's best interests if they become ill, they do not ensure that parents provide individual medication for emergencies.

The older children have a full range of relaxing activities after school. The nursery children take part in a wide range of activities to meet their developmental needs. There is planning that supports the babies' development and there is an adequate range of equipment for babies, but very few babies slept in cots. There is an appropriate equal opportunities policy, and resources and activities which reflect the diversity of society. Staff manage behaviour positively and consistently, resulting in good behaviour and secure, confident children.

Partnership with parents is generally good and parents are happy. Staff share information about the children. Staff have a good understanding of confidentiality and records are stored securely.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The last inspection was a transitional inspection, this section is not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Premises are safe, secure and clean. Health and hygiene procedures are effective resulting in very clean and well maintained premises.
- Mealtimes are relaxed social occasions, and staff promote children's independence, parents are welcome to join children for lunch. Children are provided with well-balanced meals.
- The older children have a full range of relaxing activities after school. The nursery children take part in a wide range of activities to meet their developmental needs. Children have constant access inside and out in fine weather.
- There is an appropriate equal opportunities policy, and resources and activities which reflect the diversity of society.
- Staff manage behaviour positively and consistently, resulting in good behaviour and secure, confident children.
- Partnership with parents is generally good and parents are happy. Staff share information about the children. Staff have a good understanding of confidentiality and records are stored securely.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Not applicable.

What needs to be improved?

- staff ratio and the organisation of the space
- procedures for sleeping babies

- procedures for risk assessments
- administration of medication
- fire safety
- records that include details of the registered person
- policies, so that they are readily available to parents and in line with current guidance.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	Ensure that the required staff ratio is met throughout the day and organise the space to meet the children's needs effectively.	13/01/2004
14	Ensure that the details of the registered person are stored securely and are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times.	13/01/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
4	Ensure that children are cared for in groups of less than 26.
6	Ensure that fire safety requirements are met regarding the fire extinguishers.
6	Devise a policy and implement the Health & Safety Executive guidance on risk assessments.
7	Ensure that any medicines given to a child belong to that 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.