



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 129034

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	13/05/2003
Inspector Name	Laura Brewer

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Little Cherubs
Setting Address	A 2 Bell Green Lane Lower Sydenham London SE26 5TB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Deborah Percy
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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

Little Cherubs Day Nursery is privately owned and opened in 2000. It operates from purpose built premises situated in Lower Sydenham. The youngest children are located on the ground floor with two group rooms, a soft play room and sleep room. The preschool children are located on the first floor and have use of two activity rooms. Both floors have separate toilet/changing facilities. There is a separate office, staff facilities, kitchen and enclosed outdoor play area.

Registration is for 44 children age up to five years. The nursery accept children from three months. Presently, there are 9 funded three year olds and 4 funded four year olds. There are currently no children attending with special educational needs or who are learning English as an additional language.

The group opens Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. Opening hours are 8.00am until 6.00pm. The staffing structure includes a manager, deputy, room supervisors and practitioners. The majority of staff have an early years qualification. The nursery use the High Scope teaching method and have access to support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Cherubs Day Nursery provides satisfactory quality of care for children with some very good aspects.

The nursery focus on providing an environment where children can learn through play. In line with this philosophy, there is a wide range of activities for all areas of children's development. Staff have a good knowledge of each child's individual needs and interests. They use observations of what children can do to plan for their next stages of learning.

The nursery provides a welcoming environment for children, however, nappy changing does not consistently allow for children to be changed in comfort. Staff give high priority to ensuring children are safe both inside and outside the nursery and have effective systems in place to minimise risks.

Most of the written records and policies are thorough, however a few lack the relevant detail. Some confidential records are not appropriately stored. Parents receive good written information about the setting. Key workers are available to talk

to parents on a daily basis and provide regular updates about their child's progress during six monthly parents evenings. Parental involvement is positively encouraged and parents are happy with the quality of care provided.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection it was agreed that they would replace a broken window, implement written risk assessments, ensure a suitable method for recording children's behaviour was implemented and produce a safe procedure for outings.

The window has been replaced, daily risk assessments are now produced, incident records have been introduced for recording children's behaviour and an outings policy is in place.

What is being done well?

- Children take part in a wide range of interesting and well planned activities.
- Children explore their environment energetically and play enthusiastically with the selection of resources.
- Staff have a good understanding of each child's stage of development. Staff evaluate activities and use their observations to plan for children's next stages of learning.
- There are comprehensive policies for safety issues. Staff give high priority to children's safety both inside and outside the nursery.
- Staff act in children's best interests when they are ill and have effective procedures in place to ensure there is a qualified first aider present at all times.
- Healthy meals and snacks are provided enabling the children to have a balanced and nutritious diet.
- Meal times are seen as sociable occasions, where children's have the opportunity to develop their self help skills.
- Staff have a consistent and fair approach to behaviour management issues. Clear guidance and praise ensures children are familiar with behavioural expectations.
- Staff provide parents with very good information about the setting and their children's progress.
- Opportunities are available to parents to be actively involved in the group and parent's suggestions are valued.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, to ensure the times of children's arrival and departure are maintained;

- nappy changing facilities, to ensure children are able to be changed in comfort;
- the equal opportunities policy to include how equal opportunities will be promoted;
- confidentiality, to ensure confidential records are stored appropriately.

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
2	record times of children's arrival and departure;
4	review the nappy changing facilities;
9	include in the equal opportunities policy how equal opportunities will be promoted within the nursery;
14	ensure all confidential records are stored appropriately.

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.