



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 219173

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 16/11/2004
Inspector Name Susan Marriott

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Kings Cottage Nursery
Setting Address Unilever Research site
Colworth Road
SHARNBROOK
Bedfordshire
MK44 1ET

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd. 2328679

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd.
Address 2 Crown Court
Crown Way
Rushden
Northamptonshire
NN10 6BS

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

Kings Cottage Nursery opened at Colworth House in the rural village of Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire, in 1990. It is a community nursery managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd., who run a chain of childcare establishments across the country. The nursery is located in a pair of converted and extended semi-detached houses. There is a secure garden and the nursery uses the extensive grounds of the country house.

There are currently 60 children aged six weeks to five years on roll. The setting will now be registered to provide care for children up to eight years. The group provides for several children who have English as an additional language. The nursery currently has no children with special educational needs. It is open for five days a week, between the hours of 08:00 until 18:00 for 51 weeks of the year.

A staff team of 14 work with the children and most of them hold Early Years qualifications. The setting has received support from an advisory teacher from the Bright Horizons group and support workers from the Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Kings Cottage Day Nursery provides good quality care for children. Good support is given to the stable staff team. They work well together under the managers experienced direction in this well organised establishment. They consistently endeavour to implement company systems, policies and procedures to underpin the smooth running of the nursery. Children feel secure in the warm and homely atmosphere but standards of cleanliness and maintenance in some areas of the nursery require improvement. Children make independent choices about their learning but there is a limited range of toys and equipment for children over two years. Whilst the company implementation of a new educational programme has given clear focus to recent developments, the presentation of resources to children in some areas of the nursery require attention.

The staff have a proactive approach to health and safety, conducting risk assessments to identify potential hazards and taking action to ensure a safe environment. The staff have clear procedures to promote the good health of children, although drinking water is not always accessible. Equal opportunity is supported for all children, including those with special needs. Children's particular

needs are met well, with patience, understanding and kindness by staff.

The nursery staff offer an appropriate range of indoor and outdoor activities which meet children's needs. The staff interact well with the children and develop good relationships with them. The children behave well and respond positively to the self set boundaries drawn up in consultation with the staff.

The staff have built positive and trusting relationships with the parents, many of whom come to the nursery through personal recommendation. They share information informally on delivery and collection of their child, through parent's evenings and formal contributions to the written records. The partnership between parents and staff supports the needs of the children effectively.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Staff continue to increase their knowledge and understanding of promoting and adhering to the health and safety procedures in order to maintain good hygiene practice. Children are provided with their own place mat indicating dietary requirements to alert all staff to their particular needs. Suitable furniture is provided to enable babies to be fed appropriately.

What is being done well?

- The manager is thoughtfully receptive to suggestions and ideas which might further improve daily practice in the nursery. She positively encourages the staff to develop their professional knowledge through ongoing training and supports the sensitive implementation of new initiatives. The children benefit from good quality care enhanced by fresh ideas and new approaches.
- The manager and staff show real care and respect for parents as their child's first educators, ensuring that the child's individual needs are paramount in determining arrangements for care and education.
- The provision for babies is very good. Staff respect and follow each child's individual daily routine and ensure that they interact and stimulate each child's curiosity and interest.

What needs to be improved?

- the maintenance and cleanliness of the physical environment
- the presentation of the role play area and book corner in the pre-school room
- the range and quantity of toys and equipment for children over two years
- policies and procedures require minor amendment

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.)

There are no complaints to report.

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
4	Ensure that a clean and well maintained environment is provided for children.
5	Improve the presentation of the role play area and book corner in the pre-school room and extend the range of toys and equipment available to children over two years.
8	Ensure drinking water is made available to the children.
14	Ensure that minor amendments are made to policies and procedures to fully comply with the National Standards and associated regulations.

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.