



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY258892

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/08/2004
Inspector Name Frances Shaw

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Hillview Link Club
Setting Address Hillview School
Beechwood Avenue
Beechwood
Runcorn
WA7 3HB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Eileen Colette Histon

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

Hillview Link Club has been registered since 2003. The club operates from a building at the rear of Hillview County Primary school in Runcorn, Cheshire. The club has sole use of the unit which has two large rooms available for children's play. Enclosed areas are available for outdoor play activities. The out of school club serves children from Hillview and three other local schools.

There are 130 children on roll from four to eight years with children up to 14 years also attending. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The Link Club supports children with special needs.

The setting is open for 50 weeks a year from Monday to Friday. The club opens from 07.30 to 08.50 hours and from 15.00 to 18.00 hours during term time and from 07.30 to 17.55 hours during school holidays.

Four full-time staff and four part-time staff work with the children. Half of the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Two staff are currently working towards NVQ level 3 in child care.

How good is the Day Care?

Hillview Link Club provides a good standard of care for young children. Staff are deployed well using two playrooms which are divided into age appropriate areas, giving children plenty of room for free movement. Toy storage is at child height giving easy access and promoting choices of activity. A well structured induction procedure, access to training and regular staff meetings ensure staff work well together and understand each others roles and responsibilities. All documentation is in place although times of arrival and departure is not recorded and records of medication does not always promote confidentiality.

The Link Club demonstrates a good awareness of safety using various methods to ensure security and safety practices are implemented. Children are taught to value themselves through good hygiene practices. A varied range of snacks are provided that are healthy and nutritious. The Link Club is pro-active in the care of children with special needs and works well with other agencies to ensure all needs are met. Staff are confident in the child protection procedures.

Children have access to a wide range of activities and play equipment which

includes resources that reflects positive images of culture and diversity. Staff have a good relationship with the children and include them in organising the activity plans. They have consistent methods of managing their behaviour to ensure a happy and contented atmosphere.

Communication with parents is good. They are kept well informed of their child's activities and events by various means. Policies and procedures are shared with parents before commencement and staff are readily available for daily discussion.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Space is well organised with good staff deployment ensuring that children can move freely during play activities in age appropriate areas. Enclosed outdoor fields and playgrounds are available to ensure children get plenty of fresh air during the day. Toys are easily accessible promoting choices of activity.
- There is a wide selection of toys, equipment and activities. Project work is linked into trips such as an interactive museum, pictures showing a pond dipping trip and making and displaying planets following a visit to Jodrell Bank. Staff support children with activities that include cookery, marbling, a treasure hunt or free play. Children are included in the planning process to ensure they enjoy each day. Positive images of culture and diversity is well organised through books, posters, dolls and puzzles. Special days are celebrated with food tasting and picture displays showing craft activities such as cultural masks and dragons to celebrate the Chinese New Year.
- Safety procedures include regular fire drills so that children understand the procedure and using passwords to ensure security when others are collecting children. A daily risk assessment is completed which includes toys and play equipment.
- There is a commitment to training which includes a well structured induction process resulting in staff having a good understanding of each others roles and responsibilities. To keep themselves informed staff have attended various awareness courses such as first-aid, art/craft, behaviour management, fire awareness, equal opportunities, food hygiene, inclusive play, Makaton and special needs.
- Good communication with parents ensures they are kept well informed using notice boards, newsletters, policies and procedures, leaflets, parents evenings and daily verbal exchange. The club has devised its own parental questionnaire to ensure parents are able to be included in the groups activities.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The Link Club makes excellent provision for children with special needs. For

example a range of resources are available such as fibre-optics, a bubble machine, noise, vibration and tactile games to ensure inclusive play.

What needs to be improved?

- the recording of times of arrival and departure
- the methods of recording medication admixture to children.

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
2	Ensure that times of arrival and departure are recorded in the register of attendance to ensure full implementation of the procedure.
7	Keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children in a way that promotes confidentiality.

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.