



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY270216

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/08/2004
Inspector Name Astrid Haidysek

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Alpha Centre
Setting Address Alpha Road
Great Yarmouth
Gorleston-On-Sea
Norfolk
NR31 0LG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Great Yarmouth and Waveney CONTACT
1050333

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Great Yarmouth and Waveney CONTACT
Address Alpha Centre
Alpha Road
Gorleston, Great Yarmouth
Norfolk
NR31 0LG

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

Special Needs At Play (SNAP) play scheme opened in 2003 and operates from the Alpha Road Toy Library in Gorleston. The premises are a portacabin, with one large play room and a smaller room which is used as a the messy area. There is also a small outside play area. SNAP have sole use of the toy library whilst the scheme is running.

There are currently 8 children from 4 to 8 years on roll, all children have special needs. Children over eight can also attend the scheme. It operates during the school holidays from 10:00 until 15:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.

Five staff work with the children, some are employed whilst others work as volunteers. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Children who attend are offered either a one to one ratio or a one to three ratio according to their individual needs.

How good is the Day Care?

Special Needs At Play (SNAP) at the Alpha Centre provides good quality care for children.

The staff work well as a team to meet the needs of all the children. A high staff/child ratio means that children are well supported and able to take part in all planned activities. The premises are stimulating and child centred. Effective use is made of the space to provide a range of play activities for the children. There are attractive, good quality toys available, which children can self select. Clear policies and procedures are in place for the safe running of the scheme.

Staff are very vigilant about children's safety at all times and effective measures are in place to minimise potential risks. They encourage children to manage their own personal hygiene, depending on their level of understanding. Children are protected from the spread of infection by appropriate hygiene practices, however permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice has not been requested. Children are provided with regular drinks and snacks to promote their well being. Staff know the children and parents well and work in close partnership to meet their special needs.

Staff provide an interesting programme of activities for the children to help them to

learn new skills and provide fun and enjoyment. There are generally good resources to reflect our diverse community and help raise children's awareness. Staff help children to understand about acceptable behaviour in a sensitive and consistent way.

There is a good relationship with parents, who state that they are satisfied with the care their children receive. Informal feedback at the end of the day keeps parents informed of their child's progress. However, they do not currently receive detailed information about the service provided for their children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- A detailed risk assessment for inside and outside is in place. This is reviewed on a daily basis and takes account of the particular needs of individual children and their sometimes unpredictable behaviour.
- The staff are actively involved in the children's play. They know them well and provide what they are interested in. Conversation is used to encourage children's language and social skills. Praise for achievements makes children feel valued and good about themselves.
- The staff make appropriate use of the space and resources. The activities are planned and organised to enable all children to take part and enjoy what is provided.
- Good behaviour is valued and encouraged by the staff. Clear and consistent explanation helps children to learn right from wrong in a supportive way.

What needs to be improved?

- permission from parents to obtain emergency medical treatment or advice
- information which is shared with parents.

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
7	Obtain permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.
12	Provide parents with information about the service which is provided for their children and make childcare policies used more easily available.

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.