



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 250120

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/11/2003
Inspector Name Diane Ashplant

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Sessional Day Care
Setting Name NCH - Smiths Wood Family Partnership Centre
Setting Address Wheatfield Close
Smith's Wood
Solihull
West Midlands
B36 0QP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name NCH

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name NCH
Address 85 Highbury Park
London
N5 1UD

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

Smith's Wood Family Partnership Centre opened in 1998. It operates from a purpose built building in Smiths Wood, Solihull and was set up as a joint venture between the National Children's Home (NCH) and the Primary Care Trust (PCT). The centre uses its rooms to facilitate a variety of groups that take place to meet specific individual and community needs. Occasional short term crèches are set up to care for the children while parents attend other groups taking place in the centre.

There is a multi disciplinary staff team based at the centre. The Early Years Co-ordinator is responsible for the organisation of the day care provision. It operates from a large playroom with adjoining room containing toilets and changing area. They also have use of another room. Parents use the side entrance for arrival and collection. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play space with a separate integral area containing large equipment which is accessed from the same side entrance. The centre has its own kitchen but childcare hope to use the services of the local school to provide children attending all day with a hot meal.

There are currently eleven children from two and a half years to five years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs.

The full day care provision opens five days a week all year round except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 09.30 to 18.00 hrs and this includes the playgroup sessions which run on Tuesday and Friday, between the hours of 09.30 until 11.30hrs, term time only. They will also use spaces in a privately run on-site playgroup on the other days.

There are three staff working with the children and the group also use the services of volunteers and students. Over half have early years qualification to NVQ level 3. One member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Smith's Wood Family Partnership Centre provides satisfactory care for children. Children are cared for in modern purpose built premises which offer good space to

meet children's needs. Both parents and children are welcomed and the centre specifically tries to respond to the needs of the local community and work in co-operation with other agencies. Staff work well as a team and the importance of support and development is recognised.

Staff have an appropriate understanding of children's safety and there are regular risk assessments made to highlight all areas of potential risk to the children. Most action has been taken to reduce hazards, although the group needs to carry out regular fire drills. The standards of hygiene and cleanliness are good. The majority of the staff hold a current First Aid certificate and most procedures which promote children's health are in place.

There is a good variety of toys and resources available for children to play with and a good balance of free and adult led learning opportunities. Children are well occupied and behaviour is generally good and staff use opportunities to extend children's learning and experience well.

Partnership with parents is good and staff are approachable and supportive. There is regular discussion with parents to ensure consistency and written documentation to record children's progress and development. Staff work hard to include all children and will liaise closely with parents and appropriate support services to make sure individual needs are met. Most documentation is in place and well organised, although accessibility to parents could be improved.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as there were no actions raised at the previous inspection.

What is being done well?

- This is a friendly and welcoming child orientated environment. The premises are modern and well maintained and children have easy access to a spacious and enclosed outdoor play area. Staff know parents and children well and children are settled and happy in the group.
- There is a good selection of resources and toys for children to play with. Activities are well planned to provide stimulating and interesting experiences that children enjoy and learn from. Staff and children interact well together and children's all round-development is encouraged through conversation, participation and interest in what they do.
- There is an open and supportive partnership with parents and regular communication ensures children's individual needs are well met. Staff understand the importance of accessing appropriate support services and monitoring children's development so that any particular needs are understood and children can achieve their full potential.

What needs to be improved?

- record of visitors
- fire drills
- hand washing procedures
- availability of Special Needs Policy
- documentation to include reference to Ofsted as the regulator where appropriate.

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	Ensure the group has its own record of visitors.
6	Ensure fire drills are carried out periodically.
10	Devise and make available to parents, a written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance.
14	Update all policies and procedures to include reference to Ofsted as the regulator where appropriate and make available to parents.

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.