



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 220277

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/04/2003  
Inspector Name Sarah Irene Measures

### SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name Little Gems Nursery & Pre-School  
Setting Address Nene Park  
Irthlingborough  
Northamptonshire  
NN9 5QF

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Debra Smith

## **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 Gems Nursery is a Kinderquest Nursery and is part of the Bright Horizons Family Solutions chain. It is located on the site of Rushden and Diamonds Football club, situated on the edge of the small rural town of Irthlingborough. The nursery opened in July 2000, and provides a services to families in the surrounding area. It is registered to provide full day-care to 52 children between 6 weeks and 5 years, from Monday to Friday, all year except Bank Holidays. The registration also includes an occasional crèche facility for upto 25 children from 2 months to 8 years, from 2p.m. to 5.30p.m. during home games on Saturdays and Bank Holidays. There are currently 91 children on roll, although not all children attend everyday, this includes 7 funded 4 years olds and 18 funded 3 year olds. At present there are no children in attendance for whom English is an additional language, and there is one child who has been identified as having special educational needs. There are currently 16 full and part-time staff working at the nursery, most of whom are qualified.

### **How good is the Day Care?**

Little Gems Nursery and Pre-School provide satisfactory care for children. Premises are modern, warm and welcoming. Staff are friendly and approachable. The Manager has been in post since January and has many years experience. Many staff have Level 3 qualifications in childcare. The nursery has a good variety of suitable and safe toys, equipment and furniture. Observations are used to plan for children's progression. The organisation of the room that accomodates children aged 2-5 years needs to be developed. Children could be grouped more effectively to ensure that there is a calm atmosphere within this room and to ensure that individual needs are being met. Records are generally in very good order, they are well organised and demonstrate a good understanding of the Standards. However, records for the Crèche facility need to be more comprehensive. Good attention is paid to Health and Safety issues and a detailed system of risk assessment is in place. Many staff have First Aid qualifications and Food Hygiene certificates. Varied and nutritious meals are provided by the football club canteen and attention is given to special dietary needs. Good effort is made to ensure that parents are kept informed of their child's progress in the nursery. Detailed policies are available for both staff and parents. There is a keyworker system in place and parents are invited to make appointments to discuss their child's progress at anytime.

### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

ACPC Guidelines including referral information and contacts has been obtained. (Standard 13) Child protection training has been provided and the policy updated to include allegations made against members of staff. (Standard 13)

**What is being done well?**

Staff are well qualified, with many having or working towards Level 3 qualifications in childcare. The nursery has detailed procedures for the recruitment and induction of staff. Detailed guidelines and procedures are generally available for staff. The nursery carries out observations on the children and uses these observations to help plan monthly targets to encourage children's individual progress. Parents are able to make appointments with their child's keyworker to discuss progress at anytime. The nursery has a good variety of toys, equipment and furniture that is safe and suitable for children in attendance. Toys and resources are accessible and promote all development areas. The nursery has a detailed and comprehensive Health and Safety Policy, the manager is aware of current legislation and clearly takes her responsibilities seriously. Records for the nursery are well organised and show a good understanding of the Standards.

**What needs to be improved?**

the organisation and grouping of children that are in the 2-5s room to ensure that individual needs are being met. (Standard 2) availability of resources that actively promote equality of opportunity (Standard 9) records for the Crèche. Records need to be reviewed in line with Standards and Regulations. (Standard 14)

**Outcome of the inspection**

Satisfactory

**WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?**

**The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
2	Produce an action plan showing how the needs of the children in the 2-5 room are being met.	13/05/2003
14	Ensure regulations with regard to record keeping and the running of the Creche facility are being met.	13/05/2003

**The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
9	ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

## **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.*