



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 250084

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 19/06/2003 |
| Inspector Name | Diane Ashplant |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type | Full Day Care |
| Setting Name | Lighthall Under Fives |
| Setting Address | LAYCA Community Centre Stretton Road, Shirley Solihull West Midlands B90 2RL |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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|------|---|
| Name | The Committee of Lighthall Under Five's Committee |
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

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| Name | Lighthall Under Five's Committee |
| Address | LAYCA Community Centre Stretton Road, Shirley Solihull West Midlands B90 1XX |

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

Lighthall Under Fives was first registered as a sessional playgroup in 1994 when it operated from the LAYCA portacabin in the grounds of Lighthall senior school in Shirley. It now takes place in the new LAYCA community centre situated to the side of the school.

Children attend for a variety of sessions. These run from 09.30hrs to 12.00hrs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and until 15.00hrs on Tuesday and Thursday. Children who attend on the full day bring a packed lunch. The setting currently supports children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The group has sole use of a large play/activity room with integral storage room and kitchen. There is a separate entrance which leads into a welcoming reception area for children and parents and then a further link area which contains the toilets. There is a spacious enclosed hard surfaced play area at rear which is easily accessed, and the group also have the opportunity to use the school playing fields beyond.

There is an experienced group of staff all of whom have undertaken relevant child care training. There is also an active parent rota. Lighthall Under Fives is a registered charity run by a committee. The group has good links with the support services and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership(EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Lighthall Under Fives provides good quality care for children.

The group has sole use of part of recently built and well maintained premises which provide a very welcoming and stimulating environment for children. The space both inside and out is organised effectively to meet the needs of the children present. Good links with the school ensure that the school fields can also be used at certain times. Staff ratios are well maintained and the benefits to the children of an active parent's rota mean that they have extra adult interaction and attention. The staff meet the needs of all children well, including those with special needs and with English as an additional language. The input of support workers enables all children to be fully included.

Staff pay good attention to children's safety and have taken all necessary

precautions to reduce hazards, including an effective risk assessment. The children are encouraged to develop their own awareness of boundaries which keep them safe and this includes the way they behave. There are good procedures for promoting children's health and the whole provision upholds good standards of cleanliness and hygiene.

There is a well planned daily routine, which includes many stimulating and challenging activities, some of which link to cultural festivals and include outside visitors. Children are well occupied, happy and learning, they are also given many opportunities for free and imaginative play and social interaction. There is a wide range of toys and resources, including those which reflect the diversity within society, which are well maintained and well organised and enrich the children's experiences.

Partnership with parents is good and they are kept well informed at all times. There is an active fund- raising programme and parents are encouraged to become involved. All documentation is comprehensive and well organised, however some policies and procedures are in need of updating.

What has improved since the last inspection?

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

What is being done well?

- Good ratios are maintained at all times including a parent helper so that children benefit from a lot of individual attention and interaction.
- All activities are carefully planned and children have many opportunities to develop their individual potentials and enjoy themselves. The programme includes outside visitors.
- This is a bright and stimulating environment which is well organised to meet the needs of children. Many examples of children's work are displayed.
- Children move comfortably around the room, and have easy access to a secure outdoor playspace.
- There is an excellent balance of toys and resources to cover all areas of development, including those which represent the diversity within society.
- The group meets the needs of individual children very well and effectively uses the support of other bodies to make sure all children are included.
- Parents are kept well informed from the start, both through comprehensive documentation and daily verbal exchange. They are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of the life of the pre-school.
- All documentation is comprehensive and well organised.

What needs to be improved?

- procedures for recording fire drills;
- updating of some policies and procedures;
- behaviour management policy to include a designated member of staff.

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 |
|-----|--|
| 6 | ensure current insurance certificate is displayed. |
| 6 | maintain a fire log which records appropriate details. |
| 11 | appoint a member of staff with responsibility for behaviour management issues. |

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.