



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 139384

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/08/2003
Inspector Name Mary Daniel

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name The Gryphon Leisure Centre
Setting Address Bristol Road
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 4EQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name West Dorset District Council

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name West Dorset District Council
Address Bristol Road
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 4EQ

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

The Gryphon Holiday Activities operate from the Gryphon Leisure Centre, situated in the grounds of the Gryphon secondary school in the town of Sherborne. These premises are purpose built and the children will have use of the main sports hall, the studio room, squash courts, an upstairs meeting room for craft activities and the school grounds including tennis courts, sports pitches and swimming pool. Children attending come from the town of Sherborne and outlying villages within a radius of 10 miles.

The club is registered to provide out of school care for 26 children aged between five to eight years, with older children also accepted up to the age of 13 years. The club is open from 09:00am - 12:00pm, and 13:00 pm - 16:00pm., with a lunch break available between 12:00pm - 13:00pm, for those staying all day. The facility also offers an early morning and late club, for those requiring full day care for their children, and this operates between 08:30am - 09:00am, and 16:00pm - 17:30pm. Activities offered are largely sports based with some arts and crafts sessions also provided. The centre manager, and two duty managers, have a sports and/or management qualification, and they, the centre receptionists and head recreation assistants are trained in first aid. Most of these staff have also completed a child protection course, and some have attended short courses in childcare. Qualified, specialist sports coaches are brought in to teach specific sporting activities to the children. The club will work with children who have special needs, and the leisure centre has facilities for wheelchair access.

How good is the Day Care?

The Gryphon Children's Club is providing satisfactory care for children. The group is managed efficiently, providing good staff deployment and structure to allow for a smooth running routine. Organisational procedures work well in practice and are recorded within a detailed handbook. The premises are purpose built, well maintained and offer a suitable environment for the varied sporting activities on offer.

A good variety of mainly sports based activities are provided, with specialist staff brought in to offer children the opportunity to develop new skills, at their own level of achievement, within an exciting choice of sports and games, e.g. scuba diving or football skills with a local league side football club. There is a friendly, welcoming atmosphere with good interaction shown by staff and children. Children are kept well

occupied, and mix well within their peer group.

Health, safety and hygiene procedures generally work well in practice, with children being informed of safety regulations at start of each session, however actual fire drills are not completed and regular hand washing is not always encouraged before snack and lunch breaks.

There is a clear behaviour policy in place, and staff maintain appropriate, consistent boundaries whilst encouraging a positive approach in management of children, and praising their achievements. All children are valued and respected and supported in participating in activities to their own level.

Documentation in place is adequate overall, although there is no system for recording administration of medication available, and the children's registration forms do not record sufficient emergency details.

There is a detailed handbook available for parents informing them of activities provided and including information on the policies and procedures used by the group.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group were asked to ensure suitable cover is available in the absence of the person in charge, and to produce required records and policies in line with the National Standards.

These actions have been met through introduction of a new staffing structure and implementation of most of the relevant policies and procedures which are made available for parents through the parents handbook.

What is being done well?

- The organisation of the practice is well implemented. There are clear operational procedures in place and staff are all aware of their own areas of responsibility. Children are grouped appropriately for their ages and stages of ability to encourage their participation.
- There are a wide range of exciting sports based activities offered. These are well planned and offer children the opportunity to try out new skills within a safe and secure environment. Staff aim to provide children with an enjoyable session, in which each child will gain achievement.
- Premises are used effectively to support the wide range of sporting activities offered. Space is used well to allow children to participate in activities in small and large groups.
- Staff promote good behaviour well. They maintain a clear, secure routine, with realistic expectations and work together effectively to keep children occupied and involved in an interesting and exciting provision of activities, while acting as good role models.

What needs to be improved?

- the frequency of completing fire drills;
- the system for recording administration of medication;
- the procedures used to prevent the spread of infection with children;
- the details recorded on children's registration forms.

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
6	ensure regular fire drills are completed
7	ensure children are encouraged in appropriate procedures to help in preventing the spread of infection.
14	ensure a record of administration of medication and of parents consent is maintained.
14	ensure children's registration forms allow the opportunity for parent/carers to record all required details.

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.