



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 955484

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/04/2004
Inspector Name Joanne Graham

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Waterloo Meadows Children's Centre
Setting Address Elgar Road
Reading
Berkshire
RG2 0BN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Reading Borough Council

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Reading Borough Council
Address Level 10, Civic Centre
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 7TD

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

Waterloo Meadows Out of School care operates from Waterloo Meadows Children's Centre close to the river Kennet in Reading. The group has use of the centres facilities with access to an outside area and community play park.

The provision offers: After school club open Monday to Friday from 15:00 to 18:00 term time only. Children can be collected from local schools.

Holiday club open Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 17:30 in the Christmas and half term holidays only.

Playscheme open Monday to Friday during the Easter and Summer holidays, except for public holidays. This is an open access facility and not a full day care provision. Children are supervised on site but are free to arrive and leave as they wish during the opening hours of 10:00 to 16:00.

The setting supports children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

There are currently 63 children on roll for the Easter play scheme. There are eight staff working with the children, of whom three hold a recognised childcare qualification. One staff is working towards it. Casual staff complete local authority training. All staff hold current first aid certificates.

How good is the Day Care?

Waterloo Meadows Children's Centre provides a good standard of care for children. The staff are aware of their roles and duties, ensuring the children receive good individual support. Effective deployment of staff ensures the children are safe within the building and whilst using the outside area. The group have daily health and safety checks and evacuation procedures; they practice and reinforce these regularly. Staff are active in promoting good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection and children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through the daily routine. Staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues.

The children respond to the positive reinforcements and expectations of staff regarding behaviour management. Staff are good role models. They provide a varied, interesting and relaxed environment and respond to the children's interests. Children enjoy the exciting activities available and the option to self-select their

favourite choices, especially enjoying playing in the outside area. The staff consider, respect and value individual needs. Drinks are accessible at all times. Snacks are provided in the after school club facility and dietary and religious requirements are catered for. Packed lunches supplied by parents are stored safely.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers. They are welcome at any time and know what is going on in the group through informal contact with staff and parent's notice boards. Parent's evenings are held on a regular basis for the after school club facility. All regulatory documentation is in place, however some documentation lacks necessary detail. There is safe storage and maintenance of confidentiality of documentation.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- The staff are interested in what the children say and do and they respond to their interests. The children are involved in a broad range of fun and exciting activities. The activities provided meet the needs of all the children. They participate enthusiastically and enjoy playing together.
- The needs of all the children are valued and respected. Staff ensure all children are included in all the activities. The group assess individual needs to ensure these can meet them fully within the setting. There is sensitive support of children with special needs.
- Good behaviour is encouraged. Children are keen to participate in planned activities and are aware of the boundaries. They help to establish some of the rules with the staff. Staff are good role models and support the children well.
- Staff are deployed effectively and are vigilant about children's safety at all times, especially when using the fixed apparatus in the outside area. There is monitoring of access to the provision to keep children and staff safe.

What needs to be improved?

- written confirmation of who can and can not collect the children for the after school club and play club.

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.

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.