



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 123558

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 26/11/2003  
Inspector Name Karen Molloy

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Little Steps Day Nursery  
Setting Address 1 Lancaster Road  
St. Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL1 4EP

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Little Steps Day Nursery 3723601

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Little Steps Day Nursery  
Address 1 Lancaster Road  
St. Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL1 4EP

## 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 Steps Day Nursery is a small privately owned nursery operating from a house and situated in a residential area of St Albans. They have been established for four years and are registered for 28 children aged 0 to 5 years. They operate Monday to Friday 7:45 am to 18:15, 51 weeks of the year. They employ a teacher on a part time basis, who works with the older children.

The children have use of a number of rooms downstairs and a safe, fully enclosed garden.

Overnight care is not provided.

The nursery successfully achieved the Hertfordshire Quality Standards (HQS), a quality assurance process, in 2001.

### How good is the Day Care?

The day care provides good quality care for the children. Most of the staff are suitably qualified and the team keep up to date with current practice by attending various training events. The provision is welcoming and homely. The systems, planning and routine underpin the well organised, day to day running of the facility. All the relevant documentation is in place, this needs to be reviewed regularly.

Staff have a good awareness of safety issues, with effective systems in place for the safe arrival and collection of children. The care of the children ensures that attention is given to their individual needs for sleeping, feeding and hygiene. Sleeping children are regularly checked and their individual sleep patterns adhered to, food provided is freshly cooked and good hygiene practices are encouraged. Staff have identified the need to complete Food Hygiene training, and in response to parents requests, will be establishing a new drinks system, to ensure drinks are readily available to the children at all times.

The range and quality of activities and resources is good. Attention has also been invested in choosing appropriate, child friendly furniture that gives the children plenty of table top space and enables adults and children to sit at the same level. Different rooms provide activities to cover all the areas of development, with a balance of adult led activities and free play opportunities. Staff plan according to the children's needs and wall displays reflect the children's own work. Staff and children interact

positively and the children appear happy and relaxed in their surroundings. There is a calm atmosphere where good behaviour is encouraged.

The nursery shows a good understanding of working in partnership with parents. The provision is warm and welcoming, with informative notices and photographs displayed in the entrance. Information is shared regularly with the parents in a variety of ways.

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

At the last inspection, five 'actions' were identified, all of which, have been addressed. In relation to Child Protection, all staff have now attended training and the nursery have relevant Child Protection guidance.

Policies and procedures are now given to all parents, in the form of a 'Rough Guide' and Ofsted contact details have been added to the complaints procedure.

Any damaged play mats have been replaced with new ones, to ensure their safety.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff organise space and resources well, to meet the children's needs effectively. The children are able to move around freely and the organisation/routine allows for flexibility. (Standard 2)
- Staff are actively involved with the children. They spend time talking and listening to them, asking questions and offering them support, wherever necessary. (Standard 3)
- Staff have effective systems for monitoring and observing the children's development. This enables them to plan the next steps in the children's play and learning and also takes into consideration, the children's own interests. (Standard 3)
- Staff provide a good range of resources and activities, which are easily accessible to the children. Low, open storage encourages the children to make independent choices. (Standard 5)
- Staff have a good understanding of the children's individual needs. Detailed 'all about me' information is completed with the key worker and parent initially and time is invested in settling in new children and parents. (Standard 9)
- Good behaviour is valued and encouraged, with explanations and praise given to the children. The nursery's policy on managing behaviour is sensitive to the children's different ages/stages of development. (Standard 11)
- Staff work in partnership with the parents and appear to have formed good relationships with them. They communicate and share information in a variety of ways including; an informative notice board, parents evenings, daily charts and monthly memos. Recently, a Parents Forum has been set up. Feedback from parents was positive (Standard 12)

**What needs to be improved?**

- The training to ensure that anyone responsible for the preparation and handling of food is aware of, and complies with, Environmental Health requirements. (Standard 7)
- The reviewing of documentation (Standard 14)

**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
7	Ensure that anyone responsible for the preparation and handling of food is aware of, and complies with, Environmental Health requirements.
14	Ensure documentation is reviewed on a regular basis.

## **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.*