



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY285200

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 23/11/2004
Inspector Name Ann Field

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Ducklings Pre-School
Setting Address Wimborne Crescent
Westcroft
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK4 4DB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ducklings Limited 04902686

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Ducklings Limited
Address 11 Bilbrook Lane
Furzton
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK4 1LW

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

Ducklings Pre-School is one of three pre-schools run by Ducklings Limited. There has been a pre-school on this site since 1996. It opened with new management in 2002 and operates from several rooms in a community hall in the Westcroft area of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. A maximum of 40 children may attend the pre-school at any one time. The setting is open each weekday during term time from 09.15 until 11.45 and 12.00 until 14.30 with the exception of Thursdays when they are only open in the morning. The children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 68 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these 61 children receive funding for nursery education. Children attend from the local area. The pre-school supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The pre-school employs nine staff. Four of the staff, including the manager have appropriate early years qualifications.

How good is the Day Care?

The Ducklings Pre-School provides good quality care for children. All aspects of the provision are well organised; effective use is made of the staff and resources. The staff work effectively as a team, they provide a high level of interaction with the children, the key worker system is well organised. The staff ensure that the resources are available to enable children to take part in a wide variety of activities; they encourage them to make their own choices and decisions. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that the staff have a consistent approach to their work.

The staff have a very good understanding of safety issues and all areas for promoting children's good health have been addressed. They have a clear understanding of child protection procedures and their role in the protection of children. There is evidence to show good support for all families including those who have children with special needs. The children's dietary requirements are fully discussed with parents, any allergies are clearly noted and a healthy snack is offered.

The staff work well with children; they keenly interact in their play and spend time developing trusting relationships. They are friendly and approachable, know the children well and provide support and encouragement to them. Creative and imaginative play is enjoyed and daily opportunities for physical play are offered. Staff have a very positive approach to managing children's behaviour; the children behave well.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers. They are kept well informed about the daily activities and are very happy with the service provided. The staff keep clear, professional records that are stored confidentially. All the relevant paperwork is in place, but very occasionally lacks the necessary detail.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The children are interested and absorbed in their play, both in the adult led and child-initiated activities. They talk confidently to their peers and to the staff, who take every opportunity to extend the children's learning. The staff are particularly skilful at anticipating where they are needed and spend a lot of time with the children at the various activity tables and in the book corner. Music and singing are well used and help the smooth transition through the various changes during the session.
- Staff manage children's behaviour very well, they provide good role models by talking calmly and quietly and by using good manners themselves. All staff give praise and encouragement to the children ensuring that they develop confidence and self esteem. The children are generally well behaved, any incidents are recorded confidentially and shared with parents. There is good adult interaction with a high ratio of staff to children. The children benefit from the security of the established daily routine and are happy and settled.
- The staff ensure that the pre-school is welcoming; parents and children are greeted on arrival. The rooms are set out to promote the children's learning, the comprehensive range of toys and equipment is easily accessible to the children. The staff have a high regard for health and safety issues; routines to promote good health and hygiene are well established.
- The pre-school has some effective systems for developing good partnerships with parents. They are given access to all the policies and procedures, there is an informative notice board including staff photographs. Newsletters are regularly produced and bi-annual open days are arranged. There is an information pack for new parents and the open door policy allows parents to feel welcome in the setting.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, to ensure an accurate record of attendance is kept detailing the times of children's arrival and departure if different from regular opening times.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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
2	Ensure that an accurate record is kept of children's attendance

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.