



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY268321

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/12/2004
Inspector Name Angela Wilson

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Smiles
Setting Address 6-8 Queen Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 2PJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of Smiles 4824780

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Smiles
Address 6-8 Queen Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 2PJ

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

Smiles Daycare is a nursery run by a partnership between Samantha Gray and Rachael London. It opened in 2003 and operates from rooms above shops in Colchester town centre. A maximum of 26 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open 6 days a week all year round from 08:45 to 18:00. Children attend on a flexible basis while their parents are either at work, shopping, studying or for emergency care. Occasional out of school care is also offered. There is no outside playing area.

There are currently 25 children aged from birth to under 8 years on roll. Of these 6 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local area. The nursery currently supports a small number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs seven staff. Four of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. Three staff are working towards a qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA).

How good is the Day Care?

Smiles Daycare provides satisfactory care for children.

There is a well organised staff team at Smiles who provide a secure and welcoming environment for the children. Staffing ratios are high and the level of adult child interaction is consequently favourable. Training has been a priority for staff. New staff have an induction programme and there is an appraisal system in place. Key workers ensure that the children are well known to staff. Space is organised so babies have their own, separate area and a quiet room for sleeping. Children are taken regularly to the park, library and outings. There is a range of equipment and resources for the children to use, which is accessible. Most documentation and records are in place and there is a very effective operational plan. Confidentiality is observed and records kept securely.

Staff have a good awareness of safety and most aspects of hygiene. A daily risk assessment is carried out. Four staff are qualified in First Aid. Sleeping children are monitored every ten minutes and a check list is kept. Healthy snacks are provided and drinks are readily available. Lunch is a sociable, relaxed time while staff chatted

to the children or helped them. Children are treated individually. Staff are aware of their responsibilities regarding child protection.

A range of activities are set out for the children and staff assist them in their play. There are insufficient opportunities for children to regularly play with sand, water and paint. Staff are affectionate and caring towards the children and skilled at managing their behaviour. There is a good range of toys and activities to promote equal opportunities. Staff have an inclusive approach to children and would support those with special needs.

Partnership with parents is good. A daily record is kept and given to parents, there is a prospectus and a website. Staff are readily available to speak to parents. Open evenings are held.

What has improved since the last inspection?

N/a

What is being done well?

- A very flexible pattern of care is offered, with children attending for either short or longer periods of time.
- Staffing ratios are very high, which gives the children individual care and attention.
- Training is given a priority with many members of staff attending various courses since registration. The effect is knowledgeable staff who look after the children sensitively and affectionately.
- Healthy snacks, such as fruit, vegetables or toast are enjoyed by the children, the nursery has been given a 'Snack Attack' award.
- Staff have a good understanding of behaviour management and are calm role models for the children.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, to ensure all entries in the accident book are signed by parents and that parents give prior consent for medication
- records, developmental records to be kept on all of the children
- hand washing routine, so separate towels are used by each child
- play opportunities, so that sand, water and painting activities are available on a more regular basis.

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

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
3	Increase the opportunities for children to use sand, water and paint.
3	Develop the use of observation and recording to plan the next steps for the children's play, learning and development.
7	Ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing.
7	Obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and ensure that parents always sign the accident record.

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.