



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 103802

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/02/2005
Inspector Name Cilla Rachel Mullane

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Deanwood Ducklings
Setting Address Deanwood Primary Education Technology School
Long Catlis Road
Gillingham
Kent
ME8 9TX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Deanwood Ducklings and Kids Club

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Deanwood Ducklings and Kids Club
Address Deanwood Primary Education Technology School
Long Catlis Road, Parkwood
Gillingham
Kent
ME8 9TX

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

Deanwood Ducklings Play and Learn Group was established in 1997. The pre-school is managed by a committee. It operates from two playrooms in a pre-fabricated building, on the site of Deanwood Primary Education Technology School, in a residential area of Gillingham, Kent. The pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 30 children from 2 to 5-years on roll; Of these, 24 receive funding for nursery education. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting has experience of working with children who have special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during term time. Sessions operate between the hours of 08.45 and 11.45 Monday to Friday and 12.45 and 15.15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The nursery employs four staff. All the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Deanwood Ducklings provides satisfactory care for children. There is a well-qualified staff group, who have attended short courses. The environment is welcoming, clean and well maintained. Space is organized so that children can move around freely between a range of activities in clearly defined areas. However, sometimes staff's attention is taken away from the group, for example by visitors or by offering one to one support, temporarily affecting children's behaviour and activities. Children's work is displayed, and plenty of safe and suitable toys and equipment are at a low level for children to self select. Most required documentation is in place, and all is stored securely.

Appropriate safety precautions are in place, and there are effective procedures for the safe collection of children. Staff regularly update first aid qualifications. Children learn about health and hygiene through the daily routine. Snack times are social occasions with staff sitting with the children, effectively promoting independence. Not all staff have a secure knowledge of child protection issues.

A broad range of interesting activities is carefully planned, which cover all areas of development. Staff are friendly and relaxed in their interactions with children, who are happy and settled. Children are praised and encouraged, and their contributions valued. There are appropriate strategies for managing children's behaviour, which are consistently used by staff. Staff promote equal opportunities, and some resources and activities reflect the diversity of society. Staff working with children with special needs liaise effectively with parents and other agencies.

Parents are happy with the standard of care, staff's abilities and friendliness, and the informal exchange of information. Parents stay to settle their children. Some parents do not feel sufficiently informed about their children's progress or the complaints procedure. Parents' evenings are planned to address this.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the pre-school agreed to produce policies for lost and uncollected children.

They also agreed to obtain training for all staff about equal opportunities issues, and ensure that all staff understand the importance of confidentiality. Not all staff have had training on equal opportunities, and there is no policy for children who become lost. Staff understand the importance of confidentiality.

What is being done well?

- There is a well-qualified staff group, who cooperate well as a team. They continue to attend short courses to keep their knowledge of childcare issues up to date.
- Promotion of independence is a strength - for example at snack time children put on their own spreads, pour their own drinks, find their names, pile the dirty plates and some help wash up. Small groups help them to feel secure.
- Children make good use of the role play area and book corner, with appropriate staff support.
- The environment is warm and welcoming, clean and well maintained, and space is organized so that children can move around freely between a range of activities in clearly defined areas. There are colourful displays of children's work. New parents and children were made welcome, given useful information, and encouraged to stay.
- Equality of opportunity is well promoted. Both boys and girls are at ease playing in the home corner and with dolls. Activities look at other ways of life, and help children to respect differences. Activities are adapted so all children can take part equally.

What needs to be improved?

- the organization of the sessions, so that visitors or supporting individual children does not interrupt the provision of good practice
- the use of appraisals to assess staff's performance
- the variety of healthy snacks
- the amount of information given to parents about their child's progress, the role of their keyworker, and the complaints procedure
- staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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
2	Review the organisation of the sessions and staff deployment, so that when visitors take staff's time, children continue to receive sufficient adult attention to support their play and learning.
8	Provide children with fruit and vegetables at snack times, in addition to other healthy snacks.
12	Ensure that parents are informed of the complaints procedure, have contact with their child's keyworker, and are regularly informed about their child's developmental progress.
13	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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.