



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY227324

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/07/2003  
Inspector Name Marie Therese Hall

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name First Footsteps Ltd  
Setting Address 17 Oakfield  
Anfield  
Liverpool  
Merseyside  
L4 2QH

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Janet Edith Mary Convery

## 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

First Footsteps Ltd is situated in a quiet street in the Anfield area of Liverpool. The large old house has been modernised to provide spacious and airy play rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, laundry room, staff room and office. The outside play area is surrounded by high walls and is safe for children to play.

The nursery is registered to provide care for a maximum 43 children under the age of eight. This includes 16 places for funded three to four year olds. Over half of the staff employed holds child care qualifications. First Footsteps operates from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:00am to 5:30 pm.

An out of school service is available until July 2004.

### How good is the Day Care?

First Footsteps Nursery provides satisfactory childcare for children.

The Nursery provides a warm and welcoming environment for children to attend. Outdoor play area is secured and staff are on duty to ensure children are properly supervised.

Most of the staff are qualified and all staff are encouraged to access up to date training through the effective appraisal system that is in place. There is a good induction procedure for all new staff. The planning and organisation allows children to enjoy a balanced ranged of activities in all areas of development, even though the key worker system is ineffective.

There are sufficient toys, furniture and equipment to meet all the needs of the children. However there are inappropriate furniture for babies to sleep, and there is a lack of soft furnishings. Toys and equipment are age appropriate and are displayed so that children have easy access.

Children's behaviour is managed well due to an effective written policy and the interaction between staff and children.

The food provided is healthy and nutritious, but steps need to be taken to make meal time a more stimulating experience for the children. All staff were seen to be active in promoting good hygiene practices. The premises are clean and sufficiently maintained. All staff ensure the safety of the premises and the children through

regular risk assessments and close supervision.

There are sufficient systems in place to allow information to be shared with parents such as parents' information packs and display boards as well as through contracts. All required written policies and procedures are in place.

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

This is the first inspection since registration.

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

- There is a good range of planned, stimulating activities are provided for the age range.
- Sufficient range of toys are easily accessible by children to meet their needs.
- Children are well supervised and health, safety and hygiene practices keep children safe and secure.
- Positive behaviour is encouraged and acknowledged by staff with a consistent approach to managing behaviour to promote children's welfare and development.
- Parents are provided with a comprehensive information booklet and verbal information are exchanged each day to promote relationships with parents.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the system for notifications of staff changes and the procedure for taking up references for new staff
- the organisation of meal times to make it a pleasant and social occasion
- the consent forms for seeking medical advice or treatment in an emergency
- appropriate furniture for babies to sleep safely and comfortably

#### **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
1	ensure that procedures are followed for obtaining references and notifying OFSTED of any staff changes
5	ensure that suitable furniture is available for babies to sleep
7	request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
8	review the arrangements on meal time

## **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.*