



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 129321

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/12/2003  
Inspector Name Jane Mount

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care  
Setting Name Bennetts End Adventure Playground  
Setting Address Rant Meadow  
Bennetts End  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Dacorum Borough Council

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Dacorum Borough Council  
Address Civic Centre, Marlowes  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire  
HP1 1HH

## 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

Bennett's End Adventure Playground is an open access scheme for children aged 6-12 years. It is one of four adventure playgrounds run in the Hemel Hempstead area by Dacorum Borough Council and is managed by Gill Grace. Children that attend mainly come from Bennett's End and the surrounding areas.

The premises consist of a single storey building with a games and activity room, an art and craft room, a kitchen, a medical room and toilets. There is also an office and storage facilities. The outside play area is enclosed and includes grassed and hard surface areas, various climbing structures and a fully enclosed wooded play area.

The Adventure Playground is open term time between 15:30 and 18:30, Monday to Friday and it is also open at week-ends. On Saturdays between 10:00 and 17:00 and Sundays between 13:00 and 17:00. During the school holidays it is open from 08:30 until 18:30, Monday to Friday.

The premises are suitable for children and adults with disabilities. There is access to indoor and outdoor play areas and includes disabled toilet facilities.

### How good is the Day Care?

Bennett's End Adventure Playground provides satisfactory quality of care for children.

An interesting programme of planned and free play activities are organised. Interaction is carefully balanced with staff giving the children space to initiate their own play with support and direction when needed. Children are welcomed on arrival and staff give time to listen and respond and are sensitive to the individual needs of each child. Resources are generally interesting and provide sufficient challenge although play materials to promote equal opportunities needs to be developed.

All play areas both inside and out are inviting, giving the children the opportunity to mix freely in groups of varying sizes or individually. Areas are defined and appropriate to the activities organised, however, the children need access to a quiet indoor area where they have the opportunity to relax.

Staff are prepared to develop their skills by attending training courses and keeping up to date with childcare issues. Documentation is generally comprehensive with policies and procedures available to parents and children's information is regularly

reviewed.

Areas for promoting health and safety are overall satisfactory with a clear health and safety policy. However, it does need to be ensured that staff implement the policy effectively at all times. The dietary needs of the children are met well with information relating to individual dietary requirements being recorded.

The procedures for dealing with behaviour are understood and implemented well by staff. Acceptable behaviour is encouraged and staff have strategies for dealing with behaviour in a consistent manner. The children are made aware of the settings routines and procedures and they know what is expected of them.

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

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure the policies included information regarding the administration of medication and for the exclusion of children who are ill. This has been achieved and is now referred to in the written policies and procedures.

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

- The staff are keen to undertake training and they have the necessary skills and experience to do the job. Staff views are respected and they are encouraged to contribute ideas to the planning of activities. (Standard 2)
- The children are involved in a wide range of planned and free play activities and are able to make their own choices. The staff are involved and interested in what the children do and say and each child is listened to. (Standard 3)
- Positive behaviour is encouraged and acknowledged by giving the older children responsibility, for example, checking and reminding children to sign in. The staff have a clear and consistent approach to managing behaviour. (Standard 11)

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

- the inclusion of dates on staff induction records (Standard 2)
- the organisation of space to allow for more relaxing activities (Standard 4)
- the range of resources to reflect culture and disability (Standard 5)
- the procedures for minimising hazards (Standard 6)
- obtaining the government publication relating to child protection. (Standard 13)

#### **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	Ensure individual induction training records include dates of completion.
4	Ensure space is organised to allow an area for more quieter activities to take place.
5	Ensure toys and play materials promote equal opportunities particularly to reflect culture and disability.
6	Ensure reasonable steps are taken to minimise hazards to children on the premises. (This refers to the scissors).
13	Ensure government booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' is obtained and all staff are familiar with the guidelines.

## **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.*