



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY239836

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	12/08/2003
Inspector Name	Karen Molloy

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	Lindees
Setting Address	Townsend Drive St. Albans Hertfordshire AL3 5RP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Lynn Goss
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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

LINDEES is owned by Lynn Goss and Dee Hill. They run both the after school club and holiday club. These facilities operate from Batchwood School in St Albans and are available to the general public. The after school club runs Monday to Friday term time only, from 15:15 to 18:15 and also provides care on school INSET days. The club serves a large number of St Albans schools where children are taken to the club by car, minibus or by 'walkers'.

The holiday club runs daily from 08:45 to 18:15. Children may attend for a full day or a morning or afternoon session.

The clubs are registered to take 40 children aged 5-8 years, although the club is able to cater for children up to the age of 11 years.

There are 7 staff of which 3 of childcare qualified and experienced. Other staff have attended various training/workshops related to the care provided.

How good is the Day Care?

The out of school care provides good quality care for children. A number of staff are childcare qualified and experienced and others have attended relevant training/workshops to ensure they are kept up to date with current practice. An induction procedure enables new staff to become familiar with the 'workings' of the club. Staff are deployed effectively, enabling the children to use all areas of the club, both indoors and outdoors. A broad range of policies and procedures underpin the well organised, day to day running of both facilities.

Staff have a good awareness of safety issues and have procedures in place for identifying potential hazards. This includes a secure system for monitoring access to the club. Staff are familiar with child protection issues and supporting literature is in place.

The range and quality of the activities are excellent and provide the children with many opportunities that are fun, enjoyable and promote learning in many areas. Staff take into consideration the differing ages and stages of the children, allowing them to readily access resources and make independent choices. Staff meet the children's individual needs well by listening to them, supporting them and providing a forum for their thoughts, queries and comments. A children's notice board is also in

place.

The clubs show a good understanding of working in partnership with parents. It is warm and welcoming with attractive displays and informative notices. Staff encourage feedback from parents, talk to them daily and send out regular newsletters. Club documentation is excellent, it is well presented, informative and is a working document, that links in with the National Standards for Out of School care.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the club was registered last year, they have met all the actions required. These included premises checks, in relation to fire safety, environmental health and building control.

What is being done well?

- Staff regularly update their knowledge and understanding by attending a variety of training courses/workshops. This enables them to keep up to date with current practice and implement new ideas into the club. (Standard 2)
- Staff are deployed effectively both in and out of the club. This enables the children to choose where they play and ensures they have sufficient adult support and encouragement. (Standard 2)
- Staff evaluate their own practice by completing feedback forms on various activities/events. Staff meetings take place and questionnaires are given to parents/carers for their comments. (Standards 2 and 12)
- Staff provide an excellent range of activities and high quality resources for the children. These are safe, stimulating and appropriate to the differing needs of the children. Children are busy, engaged and interested in their chosen area of play. (Standard 3)
- Staff interact with the children in a friendly, relaxed and enthusiastic manner. There is much banter between children and staff and children respond positively to the staff. (Standard 3)
- Space is well organised with a room divider that enables 2 smaller groups to be organised. There are clearly defined areas and it is a very warm and welcoming environment with many notices, displays and photographs. (Standard 4)
- Staff meet the children's individual needs well. The children are able to make independent choices and staff respond appropriately to any child that may require some additional guidance or reassurance. (Standards 3 and 9)
- Staff work well in partnership with both the children and parents. Regular information is shared with parents, including newsletters and informative notices. The club is accommodating to parents needs, providing care for school INSET days and offering a holiday club service when others are on club trips. There is a children's committee open to all, where children can discuss and make decisions. (Standard 12)

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The club provides an excellent range of activities and opportunities for the children both inside and out of the club. These include regular, subsidised trips to the seaside, cinema, bowling, Quasar, swimming and educational restaurant visits. The club also invite a variety of people into the club to organise; football, drama workshops, cricket and to bring in reptiles to show the children. These are all in addition to the excellent range of daily resources and play opportunities planned within both clubs. Consequently, the children and parents are offered a wide range of fun and enjoyable experiences and opportunities that they are able to book into, dependant on their individual interests and/or needs. (Standard 3)

What needs to be improved?

- There are no identified actions or recommendations from this inspection.

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.

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.