



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY269854

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	17/12/2004
Inspector Name	Sarah Catherine Jex

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Noah's Ark Nursery
Setting Address	Shephall View Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 1RR

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Noah's Ark Day Care Nursery 4713308
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Noah's Ark Day Care Nursery
Address	3 Chestnut Walk Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 4DD

## 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

Noah's Ark Day Care Nursery opened in August 2003 and operates from an open plan room for the older age group of children and an enclosed room for the babies in a purpose built building. It is situated in the Bedwell area of Stevenage, Hertfordshire. A maximum of 73 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18:30 for 51 weeks of the year. All children share access to the secure enclosed outside play area.

There are currently 62 children aged from birth to under 5 years on roll. Of these 12 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area. The nursery currently supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 13 staff, 9 of the staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. 4 staff are working towards a qualification. The nursery have input from a qualified teacher.

### How good is the Day Care?

Noah's Ark Day Care Nursery provides satisfactory care for children.

A welcoming and friendly environment has been created for children and parents. Space and resources are utilised to meet the children's individual needs, however the staff need to look at their routine to ensure children are positively occupied, these include snack and meal times. Staff need to be deployed more effectively to ensure consistency of care within the nursery.

Staff give high priority and take positive steps to promote safety within the nursery, procedures are in place to meet with Health and Safety requirements. The children are provided with a varied and nutritious range of balanced meals and snacks that promote children's health and development. Special dietary requirements are taken into consideration and are catered for.

The staff have established supportive relationships with children and provide a wide range of activities and play opportunities in all areas of learning. Staff are involved in the children's play and interaction between them is warm and purposeful. Children demonstrate confidence and security as they access activities and play together. They know what is expected of them and behaviour is generally good.

Staff are developing their planning in line with 'Birth to Three Matters' and the 'Foundation Stage'. A key worker system is in place which helps support parents and children. Staff promote children's independence in most areas, although this could be extended.

Parents and carers are welcomed into the setting. Staff are friendly and approachable and have developed sound relationships with parents. Information is shared verbally about their child's progress and with daily diaries for younger children. A formal system is in place to share children's progress to aid parents in playing an active role in their child's care, learning and play. All policies and procedures are clear and available to the parents. All relevant documentation is in place.

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

n/a

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

- The use of home diaries to share information about the children between home and nursery. These give full information about the child's day, daily progress and achievements. Parents can communicate with staff through the use of these books.
- Staff are involved with the children and are attentive to their needs. Activities are well supported by staff and interaction is meaningful and helps develop trusting relationships between them. This has a positive impact on the children's security and confidence in the setting. Behaviour management throughout the nursery is generally good. Staff value and encourage good behaviour from the children.
- Staff plan and offer an interesting balance of structured and free play activities for the children. They fully participate within the children's chosen activities and encourage their thinking and imagination within their play. The presentation of the toys and resources encourage the children to make choices and play together. All activities are available for every child to participate in and are age appropriate for the individual stages of development. Resources are available to reflect positive images, which allows the children to extend their learning outside their day to day experiences.
- The Nursery pays close attention to any special dietary requirements and takes considerable care to provide the children with a range of well balanced and nutritional snacks and meals through out the day

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

- the organisation of snack and meal times.
- staff deployment at certain times of the day

- encouraging children's independence skills

**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.)**

n/a

**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 that the staff are deployed effectively within the premises at all times to ensure the safety and welfare of the children.
8	Provide opportunities for the children to encourage their independent and social skills during snack and meal times. Restructure the organisation of snack and meal times to ensure that all children benefit from it being a happy, relaxed and sociable 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.*