



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY286027

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/12/2004  
Inspector Name Rachel Elizabeth Bent

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Little Acorns Day Nursery  
Setting Address St. Andrews C of E School  
Lockhart Road  
Cobham  
Surrey  
KT11 2AX

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Miss Emily Clare Towers

## 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

Little Acorns Day Nursery opened in 2004 and operates from four rooms in a purpose built modular building situated within the grounds of St Andrews School, Cobham in Surrey. A maximum of 40 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18.00 for 5 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 30 children aged from 0 to under 5 years on roll. Of these no children receive funding for nursery education. The group serve the local community. The nursery currently has no children with special educational needs and supports some children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs five members of staff. Three of the staff, including the owner, hold an appropriate early years qualification. Two members of staff are currently on a training programme. Three hold a current first aid certificate. The setting receives support from an early learning advisor from the Early Years Childcare Service.

### How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Day Nursery offers satisfactory care for children. The staff team work well together and staff : child ratio's are easily met. Good use of space and resources ensure children are well cared for, however, there is no keyworker system in place. The premises are warm and welcoming, and the children are happy and settled. An appropriate range of policies, procedures and written records are in place although they sometimes lack sufficient detail.

The nursery promote the good health of the children by providing nutritious snacks and meals and maintaining good hygiene practices. Children are offered water or juice to drink, although fresh drinking water is not accessible to children at all times. Babies and toddlers benefit from consistent routines for sleeping, playing and eating and are given a good level of support to begin actively exploring their environment. All Staff take positive steps to promote safety and prevent accidents, however, there is no risk assessment in place. Some of the staff have undertaken appropriate first aid training. Staff understand their responsibilities with regard to child protection issues.

Staff involve themselves in the children's activities and play offering support and encouragement so that they are happy and relaxed. They provide a suitable range of

activities and resources, which children have easy access to and free choice ensures individual preferences are met. Staff undertake written observations of children's play and learning, however, they do not record children's progress and development. Staff talk positively to the children and promote good behaviour by praising their efforts and achievements.

Parents receive information via the daily contact book, notice board, news letters and verbal feedback from staff.

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

not applicable

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

- Good use is made of space with clearly defined areas for play.
- Children have free choice of age appropriate toys, so that individual preferences are met. Children are able to self-select toys and activities.
- Children's individual dietary requirements and routines are respected. Children follow a healthy and nutritious diet. Staff give good attention to meeting babies' individual needs for eating and sleeping.
- Detailed daily written record book keeps parents well informed about their child's day at the nursery.

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

- organisation, with regard to the implementation of a key worker system
- record keeping, with regard to the planning and recording of children's progress and development
- safety, with regard to a risk assessment
- availability of fresh drinking water for children
- documentation, so that a record of children's attendance is accurately recorded.

#### **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	Ensure an accurate record is kept of children's attendance.
3	Ensure a range of activities are planned effectively and that staff use observations to plan the next steps for the children's play learning and development. Consider implementation of a key-worker system
6	Ensure a risk assessment is carried out.
8	Ensure that fresh drinking water is available to children at all times.

## **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.*