



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 323097

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/10/2004
Inspector Name Chris Scully

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Briar Cottage Private Day Nursery
Setting Address 31 Park Road North
Newton-le-Willows
Merseyside
WA12 9TF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of Mr John & Mrs Valerie MacGowan

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Mr John & Mrs Valerie MacGowan
Address 86 Southworth Road
Newton-le-Willows
Merseyside
WA12 0BU

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

Briar Cottage Day Nursery opened in 2000. It operates from a converted Victorian house in Newton Le Willows. Children have use of eight rooms within the building. Briar Cottage Day Nursery serves the local community.

There are currently 60 children from birth to 5 years on roll. This includes 27 funded 3 year olds and no funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special educational needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 07:30 until 18:00.

There are 15 full time staff working with the children. Of these, 12 have early years qualifications to NVQ 2 or 3, and 2 staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Briar Cottage Nursery provides satisfactory care for children. Staff are aware of their individual roles and responsibilities. Registration systems show when children are present. There is a minimum of 50% qualified staff working with the children. Satisfactory use is made of space. Children have access to a range of resources, however some are damaged and younger children's access to resources regarding diversity is limited. Records and documentation are in place with some omissions.

There are a number of health and safety issues to be addressed within the setting. Children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times however there is a lack of understanding in ensuring children's privacy at all times. Two staff hold first aid certificates. Care for children with special needs is met well. Staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues and where to seek appropriate advice. Children's individual dietary needs are met well.

Care for babies is good, babies receive lots of individual attention. Children are engaged in a range of activities within the setting and have good opportunities to go to local parks. Staff miss opportunities to question younger children to promote and develop their knowledge and thinking. Staff are undertaking training on Birth to

Three Matters. Children are generally well behaved however staff do not give sufficient explanations to children to enable them to learn from their experiences.

The setting enjoys a good relationship with parents. Parents have access to a wide range of information both verbally and in written form. Information is displayed extensively around the setting.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection six actions were raised; effective steps have been taken to address these issues. These were to operate within the registered numbers and to review the operational plan. Systems have been put into place to ensure the setting operates within the registered numbers at all times. The operational plan has been shared with staff and regular staff meetings and appraisal systems are in place. To ensure sufficient activities are available to children to enable them to be fully involved and promote all areas of development; children now have access to a range of activities in all rooms. To provide suitable equipment for babies to be fed in and to sleep in. Appropriate resources are now in place and systems for feeding and sleeping revised. Improve staff's awareness of health and safety issues, risk assessments are in place and carried out daily by named staff however there are a number of new safety issues that need to be addressed. To ensure children have access to toilet rolls, soap and paper towels; new dispensers are in place in all bathrooms that are accessible to children. Improve staff's knowledge of equal opportunities and access to resources promoting positive images. A member of staff has been given the role of promoting equal opportunities and is to attend training courses. Older children have access to a range of resources depicting positive images however access for younger children remains limited.

What is being done well?

- The care of babies is good. Babies receive good levels of individual care. Staff are knowledgeable about the babies needs and meet these well. Younger babies are held whilst being fed with older children dietary needs being met well by staff. Good information is shared with the parents on a daily basis both written about their babies day.
- Staff know the children well and use information effectively to meet the needs of children. Staff are supportive of new children providing comfort when they are distressed. A range of activities are provided on a daily basis incorporating opportunities for children to visit local parks.
- Staff have an awareness of special education needs and work effectively with parents to identify suitable support for the child and family. The Senco liaises with other professionals and agencies to meet the needs of children and has demonstrated a clear understanding of the Code of Practice for the identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.
- Children's individual dietary needs are met well with alternatives provided to the main meal if necessary. Children have regular access to fresh drinking water within the rooms.

- Staff enjoy a positive relationship with the parents who are supportive of the staff and the care their children receive. The setting has a wide range of information displayed around the setting for parents.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities to question and talk to younger children
- the provision of sufficient toilets and wash hand basins
- the maintaining of safety issues within the setting and outdoors
- the raising of staffs awareness of privacy issues and minimising risk cross infection
- the younger children's free access to resources promoting positive images
- the strategies for consistently managing children's behaviour
- the maintaining of children's records and confidentiality.

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
3	Consider ways to improve the methods used by staff to question younger children to help them to think, extend their vocabulary and their knowledge and understanding.
4	Consider how to meet the requirements within the National Standards to ensure there is one toilet and wash hand basin available for every 10 children over 2 years.
6	Maintain the premises to a safe standard, ensuring all repairs are completed effectively and to a high standard. Ensure steps are taken to minimise all hazards with regards to broken glass, ensuring all low level glass is safety glass, the wall in the rear garden is made safe, and the

	doors leading to outside are made safe from splintering wood.
7	Improve staff's knowlage and understanding of how cross infection occurs and the steps to be taken to minimise this. Maintain children's privacy at all times when using the bathroom facilites or being changed by staff.
9	Improve younger children's access to a range of resources reflecting positive images of race, gender, culture and disability to improve their understanding of the world in which we live.
11	Develop a range of strategies for the effective management of children's behaviour.
14	Consider the systems to effectively ensure that children's records and personal details are up to date and that all necessary information is available. Improve the systems for the maintaining of confidentiality within information displayed.

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.