



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY263166

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	24/07/2003
Inspector Name	Wendy Fitton

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Stepping Stones Nursery
Setting Address	The Park, Off High Street Uppermill Oldham Lancashire OL3 6AP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Helen Williams
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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

Stepping Stones Nursery is situated off the main street in Uppermill, Oldham.

The building is single storey and provides care for 30 children aged from three months up to five years.

The children are grouped according to their ages and stages.

The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7:45 to 18:00.

There are five staff who have relevant childcare qualifications. The owner works as the manager and has a Level 3 qualification along with a nursery manager's qualification. The nursery is registered to receive children with Early Years Funding.

How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones Nursery provides good care for children.

There is an appropriate ratio of qualified and experienced staff. The nursery is organised to enable staff to work closely with children to offer care and support.

Staff have access to training and development programmes to update their knowledge and skills in childcare practices. There is no formal induction programme for staff and support sessions for staff are not in place.

The children are grouped appropriately so that they feel safe, secure and confident with their carers.

The environment is welcoming to children and parents. Rooms are bright and displays are child centred showing children's own work. There is a wide range of play materials and resources to meet children's individual development and learning needs.

There are detailed policies and procedures that are easy to understand and effective in practice.

Children are kept safe both inside and outside, with effective security systems and risk assessment checks. Cleaning routines are in place. Menus are planned. They offer children a well balanced diet with home cooked meals with healthy options. All

dietary needs are catered for. Staff need to be aware of confidentiality issues when displaying some sensitive information.

Staff work towards a planned curriculum covering all aspects of learning and development. There is a range of free and structured activities and children can access toys freely.

Staff are positive in their approach to children and give praise and encouragement, helping children to become independent.

Partnership with parents is valued and they are kept fully informed about all organisational policies, procedures, events and activities. Regular meetings are held to discuss children's progress and development. An information brochure is given to parents. Verbal and written dialogue from parents indicates that they are happy with the care provided and that their children are progressing.

What has improved since the last inspection?

This was the first inspection since the new owner was registered.

What is being done well?

- The provision of toys and activities to support children's development and learning needs.
- The operational plan is effective in practice and reflects the overall management of the nursery.
- The staff supporting and encouraging the children to help them feel secure and confident.
- The attention given to keeping children safe and secure.
- Working in partnership with parents.

What needs to be improved?

- the induction and support systems for staff;
- the arrangements for first aid equipment in the kitchen;
- the confidentiality of health and dietary needs of the children.

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.

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	develop an induction programme for staff to include regular staff meetings and individual supervision (Standard 2).
7	ensure that the first aid box and its contents comply with Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations (Standard 7)
12	ensure that confidentiality is maintained in relation to childrens'individual needs (Standard 12).

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.