



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 146767

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/11/2003
Inspector Name Marie Tyler

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Strathmore After School Club
Setting Address Strathmore Infant School
Old Hale Way
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 2NP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Strathmore Fun Club

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Strathmore Fun Club
Address Old Hale Way
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 1XR

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

Strathmore After School Club opened in 1998. It operates from the dining room, hall and reception area in Strathmore School. The club has an office on the site and has use of the school kitchen. There is a large enclosed playground for outside play.

Currently there are 32 children aged 5 to 12 years on roll. Children attend for

A variety of sessions after school. The group opens five days each week from 3.00 until 6.00 p.m. during school terms.

Five members of staff work with the children each day. Two members of staff have early years qualifications to NVQ Level 2 and both are working towards Level 3 qualifications.

How good is the Day Care?

Strathmore After School Club provides satisfactory care for children.

Staff are experienced and friendly but the Club management needs to make sure that a sufficient number of staff are appropriately qualified.

The premises are bright, clean, cheerful and very well maintained. Staff are very aware of the importance of health and hygiene. They take sensible precautions to keep children safe and comprehensive policies and procedures inform daily practice. However, staff need to pay more attention to safety in certain areas and some procedures need to be reviewed.

The children are relaxed, cheerful and busy. They enjoy a varied range of stimulating activities, toys and play materials. Children are friendly, confident and generally well behaved. Resources and activities promote equal opportunities for children but there needs to be some formal recognition of equal opportunities for staff. Staff are sensitive to the needs of individual children and all age groups relate well to adults and to each other.

Staff have friendly relationships with parents and information is shared informally each day. A prospectus and notice boards also provide good information for parents. Parents appreciate the provision and the opportunities it offers to their children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection it was agreed that the Club would maintain individual staff records, keep records of named drivers and the vehicles used to transport children, ensure risk assessment is undertaken, provide a special needs and no smoking policy, designate a member of staff with responsibility for behaviour and a member of staff with responsibility for child protection.

Individual staff records are maintained. Copies of all documentation for named drivers and their vehicles are on file. Risk assessments are undertaken each day. Policies for special needs and no smoking are in place. The club leader is the designated member of staff with responsibility for child protection and behaviour management.

What is being done well?

- Children have a choice of hot or cold snacks and all children sit at the snack table where there are lots of signs reminding them to wash their hands.
- Food is stored with the main kitchen supplies and the Club use their own electrical cooking equipment in a designated area in the school kitchen.
- The clear statement of policy with reference to Equal Opportunities is shared with parents and interesting activities promote children's understanding of Equal Opportunities.
- The comprehensive information for parents includes policies and procedures. Parents must sign to confirm that they acknowledge and agree to Club rules and policies. Information is exchanged informally with parents each day and the office is available for confidential discussions. Parents and children have written to express thanks to Club staff and the provision is clearly appreciated.

What needs to be improved?

- staff qualifications
- the safety and supervision of the playground and corridor
- the procedures for the admission of visitors to the school, recording staff attendance, recording medication administered to children and for managing allegations against staff
- the policies for equal opportunities with reference to staff and for special needs.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	develop an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met	03/12/2003

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	make sure attendance records for staff include hours of attendance
6	introduce a system to ensure that visitors to the school do not have access to children attending the Club
6	improve supervision of the corridor and school playground
7	make sure the record of medicines given to children is signed by parents
9	devise an equal opportunities policy with reference to the employment and training of staff
10	devise and make available to parents, a written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff
13	ensure that the child protection procedure includes the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

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.