



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY289171

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 13/12/2004
Inspector Name Janet Ann Keeling

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Playpals at Ruckleigh School
Setting Address Ruckleigh School
Lode Lane
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 2AB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Lynne Catherine Townend

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

Playpals at Ruckleigh School opened in 1996. Playpals is a private business and is managed independently of Ruckleigh Private School. The group provides after school care for children who attend the school. The holiday playscheme provides care for children from any school who wish to register. The group operates from a self-contained building at the rear of the main school. Facilities include, large classroom, toilets, kitchen and storage. There is access to an outdoor play area.

There are currently 26 children on roll from 3 to 11 years.

The after school group opens five days a week during school term time, sessions are from 15.15hrs to 18.00hrs. The holiday playscheme opens during most School Holidays including (where possible) private and L.E.A School Holidays; sessions are from 08.00hrs to 18.00hrs. The group is closed for all statutory Bank Holidays and for one week between Christmas and the New Year.

There are five permanent staff, all hold a recognised childcare qualification. Additional casual staff are available to meet any contingency requirements. The group receives support and advice from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Playpals at Ruckleigh School provides good quality care for children.

Staff provide a welcoming and stimulating environment where space and resources are well organised to support children's learning and play. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure the safety and welfare of the children. A good range of toys and equipment are provided, they are in good condition and accessible to the children. Most documentation is in place, although, attention is needed to ensure the daily registration system is accurate, and that the accident records are fully completed.

Staff take positive steps to promote safety within the setting and ensure hazards to children are minimised. Risk assessments are completed, however, a record of the daily risk assessments should be maintained. Effective procedures for the safe arrival and collection of children are in place. Children are provided with snacks and drinks in the after school group and cooked meals at the holiday playscheme. Staff are aware of children's individual dietary needs and comply with parents wishes.

Staff are aware of their child protection responsibilities

Staff plan a balanced programme of interesting and stimulating activities both in the after school group and holiday playscheme. Activities provide children with opportunities to make choices, use their imagination and have fun. Staff interact very positively with the children and ensure all children have equal access to toys, equipment and activities. Staff manage children's behaviour very well, staff use a calm and consistent approach, together with praise and encouragement to reward good behaviour. Children are actively encouraged to share equipment, take turns and show consideration for each other.

There is a strong and valued partnership with parents and carers. Staff ensure parents are kept fully informed about their child's activities through daily verbal feedback, and written feedback during the holiday playscheme.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as there were no actions set at the previous inspection.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a welcoming environment where space and resources are effectively organised to support the children's individual needs.
- Children have access to a good range of activities and play opportunities both in and outdoors. Activities are stimulating and enable children to use their imagination, make choices and further develop their independence.
- Children benefit from good staff interaction; staff listen to the children, give them clear explanations, talk to them about what they are doing and value their contributions
- Staff use effective methods to encourage positive behaviour and relationships within the group are very good, consequently, children are well behaved and sensitive to others.
- The partnership with parents and carers is good and is supportive in meeting children's individual needs.

What needs to be improved?

- the daily registration system
- the procedures for completing risk assessments and the accident book.

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

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
6	Review the risk assessment procedures, to ensure they include the daily safety checks that are carried out on the premises.
14	Ensure the daily registration system is accurate and includes the time of arrival and departure of all children, and that the accident records are fully completed and signed by parents.

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.