



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 303689

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 05/05/2004 |
| Inspector Name | Sandra Gurr |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type | Full Day Care |
| Setting Name | Barbara's Private Day Nursery |
| Setting Address | Crossley Hall Crossley Hill Halifax West Yorkshire HX3 0PL |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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| Name | Ms Barbara Booth |
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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

Barbara's Private Day Nursery opened under the present ownership nine years ago. The nursery is just over one mile from Halifax town centre and serves families from both the local residential area and other areas of Halifax. The nursery premises are on three levels. Children are grouped according to age. Children can also access a soft play area, creative area and computer room on the second level. There are two enclosed outdoor play areas.

The nursery is open from 07:00-18:00, Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays, for 52 weeks a year. It is registered for 31 childre and at present there are 47 children on role including 11 funded three year olds and six funded four year olds.

All children in the nursery speak English as a first language and there are no children with special needs in the nursery. There are six staff and the owner working directly with the children. They all have appropriate early years qualifications, or are working towards them. The nursery has had regular support from the local authority.

How good is the Day Care?

Barbara's Private day Nursery provides satisfactory care for children. There are some good elements to this care in particular, a stable and settled staff team enjoy working together and contribute to the happy atmosphere in the nursery. The decoration of the baby area and reordering of several rooms on the second level has improved the overall presentation of the nursery and this now needs to continue into all of the nursery rooms. Staff ratios need to be maintained at all times particularly in the 2-5's area.

Health and safety in the nursery is satisfactory and there are health and safety policies to underpin the work of the staff. However, fire evacuation practices, although undertaken, are not always recorded. Staff have an appropriate understanding of child protection issues and the designated member of staff has attended training. There are good systems in place for the identification and support of children with a special need and staff have a good understanding of the individual needs of children in their care. Policies and procedures for the organisation of the nursery are in place but are not well presented, or easy to read. Food provided within the nursery is of a high quality and a varied and nutritious menu is offered to children.

The provision of activities for the children is appropriate and staff have improved their systems for planning and assessment, although further work is required in this area. Some good staff interaction takes place with the children, particularly the babies who enjoy a wide range of creative activities. This means that most children are happy to come into the nursery and are very settled and behave well.

A good relationship has been established with parents and questionnaires indicate that they are happy with the care that their children receive. They are made very welcome in the nursery on a day to day basis and staff talk to them on a regular and informal basis about what their children have been doing.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection and subsequent visits, the nursery was asked to put a number of required policies and procedures in place, ensure that the premises and outside area were well maintained and safe and that the building work in the new toilet area was completed.

The required policies and procedures are in place. These now need to be well presented and easily accessible to staff and parents. Building work is complete and the outside area has been made safe. A new creative room and computer room have been created. The baby room has had an extensive programme of decoration and new flooring. There are plans to extend this refurbishment into the remaining parts of the nursery.

What is being done well?

- The staff team work well together this contributes to the happy, settled atmosphere in the nursery. Children enjoy coming into the nursery and behave well. Babies particularly enjoy the range of creative activities provided for them.
- A good relationship has been established with parents so that they are welcomed into the nursery and given good information about their children.
- A good range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks are provided for the children so that they enjoy their food.
- There are good arrangements in place for the identification and support of children with a special need. Staff have a good understanding of the individual needs of children.

What needs to be improved?

- staff ratios in the 2-3's room
- the programme of decoration and maintenance of the nursery, so that all nursery rooms are bright and well cared for
- policies and procedures, so that they are well presented and easy to read

- observations and planning within the nursery, so that they link together to ensure that children progress to the next steps in their learning
- fire records, to ensure that evacuation practices are held and recorded.

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 | Ensure that the staff ratios in the 2-3's room are appropriately maintained at all times. | 26/05/2004 |

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

| Std | Recommendation |
|-----|--|
| 3 | Develop staff's recorded observations help them to plan the next steps in the children's learning. |
| 4 | Continue to extend the programme of decoration throughout the nursery so that all nursery rooms are well maintained. |
| 6 | Maintain records of fire evacuation practices. |
| 14 | Ensure that policies and procedures are well presented and made easily accessible to staff and 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.