



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY276945

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 27/10/2004
Inspector Name Sarah Catherine Jex

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Squirrels @ Ludwick Nursery School
Setting Address Holwell Road
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL7 3RP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Squirrels Day Care at Ludwick Nursery
School 4602673

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Squirrels Day Care at Ludwick Nursery School
Address Holwell Road
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL7 3RP

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

Squirrels at Ludwick opened in January 2004 and operates from four large rooms in a purpose built building on a shared site with Ludwick Nursery School, together they provide integrated education and care for the children. The baby unit is part of the Neighbourhood Nursery scheme which allows babies have from the local area priority. The nursery is situated in the Peartree area in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. A maximum of 80 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each week day from 08:00 to 18:00 for 48 weeks of the year. All children share access to the secure enclosed outside play area.

There are currently 115 children aged from 3 months to under 5 years on roll. Of whom 27 of the children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local catchment area. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 24 staff, 16 of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. Staff receive ongoing training. The nursery have input from a Qualified Teacher Involvement and are members of the Pre School Learning Alliance. The nursery are awaiting to be verified for the Herts. Quality Standards.

How good is the Day Care?

Squirrels at Ludwick provides good care for children.

They offer a welcoming, stimulating and friendly environment where all children are valued and included. Staff are effectively qualified to a good standard. They continue to keep up to date with current practice by attending ongoing training, which is evident in the good quality of care and learning opportunities provided.

Staff provide a safe and secure environment for the children. They carry out and encourage good hygiene practices, with attention paid to children's individual needs for hygiene and self care. Meals are cooked on site and a four week menu is made available for parents. Any specific medical or dietary needs are recorded and shared with the staff team.

The children are happy, confident and well supported and are encouraged by a dedicated staff team who are friendly and approachable. They are good role models and create an environment that encourages good behaviour. There is a defined

timetable which includes opportunities for free play; whole and small group times and structured learning which is geared towards the needs of the older children. The range of resources and activities are fun, interesting and regularly rotated to offer variety. They are mostly at low level and accessible. Further development of the children's independence could be encouraged during routine tasks. Regular observations and achievement records help plan and identify children's development and progress. Staff are on hand to offer support when necessary and spend quality time interacting with the children.

Staff maintain effective relationships with parents and carers. They use a variety of methods to communicate and share information about the children. The nursery maintains the necessary documentation for the effective management of the provision, however a procedure for outings needs to be put into place. All policies are easily accessible and available.

What has improved since the last inspection?

n/a

What is being done well?

- The nursery provides a good range of appropriate activities that include all areas of children's development. All staff are involved in planning topics. The nursery teaches by using 'Birth to Three Matters' and the 'Early Learning Goals'. The presentation of toys and activities encourage the children to take part and show respect for the equipment. All activities are available for every child to take part and are age appropriate for individual stages of development. The staff allow regular opportunities for children to make choices and are able to explore and investigate.
- Staff work together as a team and are enthusiastic in their approach to the children. They interact with them in a positive way, supporting and encouraging them, listening and asking questions to develop their thinking. The staffs relationship and interaction with the children is excellent. Staff know the children well and have effective procedures in place in gathering individual information and meeting the children's individual needs.
- The children are happy, busy and confident, the staff present themselves as good role models. The children are learning respect and to value those around them and their environment. Children behave well and respond positively to direction from staff. Praise and encouragement is given and staff have a consistent and positive approach when dealing with unacceptable behaviour.
- Staff have fostered positive relationships with parents, who are welcomed into the nursery and are relaxed and at ease. Staff are friendly and approachable. Information is shared verbally, on a regular basis and through some documentation in daily diary books.
- Staff are dedicated to undertaking training courses, this helps them keep up to date with ongoing information as well as developing their own learning and

practice.

- Good organisation and management, with a dedicated staff team working well together.

What needs to be improved?

- children's independence; to develop further whilst taking part in routine/daily activities
- documentation with regard to a written outings policy.

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	Devise and implement a policy for children going on outings
3	Develop the children's independence further during routine/daily tasks.

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.