



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY280222

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 14/09/2004
Inspector Name Gill Thornton

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Creche Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name The Fields Early Years Centre
Setting Address Galfrid Road
Cambridge
Cambridgeshire
CB5 8ND

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Governors of The Fields Early Years Centre

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Governors of The Fields Early Years Centre
Address Cambridgeshire County Council
Shire Hall, Castle Court
Castle Hill, Cambridge
Cambridgeshire
CB3 0AP

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

The Fields Early Years Centre opened in March 2004. It operates from eight base rooms in a self-contained building on the site of Abbey Meadows primary school in the East Barnwell area of Cambridge. Three of these rooms are class bases for the local authority nursery school, while two are used for community activities and a toy library. The centre predominantly serves families in the local area but is also open to families from other areas.

The centre opens five days a week all year round from 08.00 to 18.00. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Children aged 3 and 4 receive their funded nursery education in the attached LEA nursery.

How good is the Day Care?

The Fields Early Years Centre provides good quality care for children. A warm and welcoming environment is provided for parents and children. The premises are safe and clean and decorated with displays of children's work. The group have a large secure outside play area to promote physical development.

Children are provided with a wide variety of resources and activities to encourage their learning and development. The qualified staff team is relatively newly formed, but they work well together, they are aware of the individual needs of the children and support them appropriately although no formal procedures for staff induction are in place. Staff use positive language and are consistent in managing children's behaviour.

Staff have attended child protection training and most procedures are followed to keep children safe. The required documentation and policies are in place to ensure children are cared for according to their parents wishes.

The Centre works closely with the attached LEA nursery to provide consistency of care and sharing information on children's progress.

Partnership with parents is good. Staff work closely with parents to meet children's individual needs. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress and routines via a weekly diary sheet.

Crèche facilities are available in separate rooms at the centre for community activities.

What has improved since the last inspection?

N/A

What is being done well?

- Staff work closely with parents to ensure appropriate care is given to meet children's individual needs. Parents receive weekly logs recording their child's eating and sleeping routines and activities. The group are planning parents' evenings with input from their 'Birth to Three Matters' mentor to share information on treasure baskets
- Children are provided with a wide range of good quality toys and resources to promote their learning. The activities provided are fun and stimulating particularly in the baby room through activities such as jelly play and body painting.
- The premises are light and welcoming providing all the necessary facilities to provide a stimulating environment. Children are grouped appropriately dependent upon age and development into three rooms. The large well designed outdoor play area provides children with opportunities to meet physical challenges.
- Staff set clear boundaries for children appropriate to their stages of development, using praise and encouragement to promote good behaviour
- All documentation is in place to support the successful management of the group and records help staff to meet children's individual needs.

What needs to be improved?

- the registration system
- staff induction procedures

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	Introduce formal staff induction procedures.
2	Improve registration system to clearly show when children and staff are present.

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.