



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY284159

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/01/2005
Inspector Name Lesley Ann Barrett

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Alpha Kindergarten School
Setting Address 66 Fletton Avenue
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE2 8AU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Alpha Big Sky Limited 5049905

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Alpha Big Sky Limited
Address 5 Old Station Yard
Bottesford
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG13 0GT

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

Alpha Kindergarten School opened in March 2001. It opened under the current ownership in June 2004. The nursery is located in Fletton close to Peterborough city centre. The provision serves the local area and operates from a two-storey building. A maximum of 113 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The provision opens five days a week from 08:00 to 18:00hrs, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays.

There are currently 100 children aged from birth to five years on roll in the nursery. Of these children 36 receive funding for nursery education and of these 28 are three-year-olds. The setting is able to support children who have a special educational need or English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 17 members of staff. This includes the manager, cook and 2 relief staff. Over half of these have an early years qualification to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from a pedagogical support officer and childcare adviser from within the Peterborough Sure Start Strategic Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Alpha Kindergarten School, Fletton, provides good quality care for children.

Staff are effectively deployed to ensure that there are a balance of qualified/experienced staff and those who are working towards an appropriate qualification. Good use is made of the space available, and there is natural progression for children as they move between rooms, with the Pre-School children being situated on the first floor. The layout of individual rooms ensures that children have adequate space to move about. However, the baby room would benefit from further development.

A thorough risk assessment procedure is in place and staff consistently follow good routines to keep children safe on the premises. Staff have a sound awareness of good hygiene practice and effective procedures for changing nappies are in place. Children are being encouraged to adopt good hygiene practise through the daily routine. All staff have a first-aid qualification and team leaders have attended a basic food hygiene course.

Children are confident, happy and engrossed in the activities on offer. They respond

well to the warmth, and encouragement, shown by staff who have a good rapport with the children. They take time to listen to the children and interact appropriately. Good use is made of social situations, such as snack and meal-times, to encourage conversation and extend children's learning. Children are able to access their own resources although, self-selection in the babies is limited. Staff are experienced and skilled in their management of children. Effective use is made of praise and encouragement to help build children's self-esteem.

Parents are welcomed into the nursery and procedures in place ensure that they are kept informed about their child's day. The management are currently in the process of updating policies and procedures. All other necessary documentation is in place although, there are occasional inconsistencies in recording of staff's attendance.

What has improved since the last inspection?

This is the nursery's first inspection since the new owners took over.

What is being done well?

- The pre-school room is organised effectively to stimulate children's development. Children are interested in the activities available. They have been involved in the creation of wall, and table, displays which are attractively displayed at their height.
- Good progress has been made in developing the monkey's room. The room now portrays a warm and welcoming environment. It is sectioned off into different areas, making it feel more cosy, and children are able to choose their own activities.
- Children's individual needs are met. Staff work closely with parents and other agencies to help meet these needs.
- Partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents express their satisfaction at the care provided. They particularly comment upon the friendliness of staff, the varied programme of learning, safety and how much their children enjoy attending.

What needs to be improved?

- the recording of staff attendance
- layout and accessible storage in the baby room

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.)

Since the 1st April 2004, Ofsted have received one complaint about this provision.

Concerns were raised regarding the organisation of the provision and suitable

staffing. These related to standard 2. Ofsted investigated this concern by carrying out an unannounced visit. Following this visit Ofsted were satisfied that there were no concerns regarding these issues. However, an action was raised to ensure that they notified Ofsted of all changes to staff. Regular updates are now received.

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	Ensure that exact times of arrival and departure are recorded for all staff.
5	Consider how the layout, and accessible storage, within the baby room can be developed.

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.