



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 221552

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/05/2003
Inspector Name	Lorraine Hunt

SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name	Burwell Early Learners
Setting Address	The Causeway Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB5 0DX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Burwell Early Learners
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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

Burwell Early Learners is registered to provide sessional care for up to 41 children aged under five years. Children can attend from 16 months old. It operates from two adjacent buildings in the grounds of Burwell Village College but a move to new purpose built accommodation, currently under construction on the school site, is scheduled for October 2003. There are currently 73 children on roll in the pre-playgroup (16 months - three years) and 42 in the pre-school (over three years) ; the latter includes funded three and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports children with special educational needs . Burwell Early Learners opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9 a.m - 11.45 a.m and 1 p.m - 3.30 p.m. Pre-school children are able to stay for lunch. Ten staff work with the children, 8 of whom have early years qualifications. Relief staff are also employed to provide cover as and when needed. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Burwell Early Learners provides good care overall for children aged 16 months to five years. Staff are well qualified and committed to training. They are deployed well , and thorough planning enables good support to be given to individual children and small groups in free play sessions. A very good adult :child ratio is maintained through regular staffing and the use of parent helpers. There is a comprehensive system of record keeping and most policies and procedures are in place and up to date. In most respects, staff have a good awareness of keeping children safe. However, there are no risk assessment procedures in place. Staff give high regard to health and hygiene issues, both in their own practice and also in encouraging children to adopt good hygiene procedures. They support children with special educational needs well . Children respond well to the calm, consistent approach of staff in both groups. Praise and encouragement is used effectively to reinforce good behaviour. The youngest children are provided with a varied, well-paced and age-appropriate range of activities. Pre-schoolers benefit from the outstanding range of well-planned activities, many of which are based around topics and "letter of the week". Partnership with parents is good. Parents are kept informed about their child's progress and feel involved in the group through taking a turn as a parent helper and by regular newsletters.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the provider agreed to investigate the overheating of the nursery room. It was not possible for the nursery to be regulated in isolation from the rest of the building but staff have made good attempts at ensuring that the room does not become too hot by opening available doors and windows and giving frequent opportunities for outdoor play as and when necessary. The new purpose built building is due to be finished in late autumn 2003 so this will then cease to be a problem.

What is being done well?

The well-planned deployment of staff in pre-school sessions enables children's learning to be supported and extended through individual and small group activities.(standard 2) Staff have a calm, consistent approach to behaviour and children have clear expectations of what is acceptable behaviour. Staff use praise and encouragement effectively and take time to listen to the children. They ask open ended questions to encourage language and thinking. (Standards 3 and 11). Staff have good working relationships with parents. Parents appreciate the approachability of the staff and most become directly involved through the daily parent rotas. Parents are kept well informed about the setting and their child's progress .(Standard 12)

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Pre-school children are provided with an excellent range of well-planned, stimulating topic-based activities and experiences, for example, building - to reflect the construction of new playgroup premises outside, and "letter of the week". Activities include role play areas based upon the topic, for example, a building site, and weekly cooking activities, room activities, and snack which all have the letter of the week as their initial letter. These reinforce children's learning in a meaningful way. (Standard 3)

What needs to be improved?

documentation, to include Ofsted's contact details in the Complaints procedure, and the child protection policy to include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. (Standard 14) the implementation of regular risk assessments. (Standard 6)

Outcome of the inspection

Good

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown

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

Std	Recommendation
6	Ensure that regular risk assessments are undertaken on the premises.
14	Update policies to include: - Ofsted's details in the complaints policy - procedures to follow in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff

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.