



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 119242

DfES Number: 519583

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 22/09/2003
Inspector Name Samantha Hunt

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Squirrels Day Nursery
Setting Address Broadmoor Hospital
Crowthorne
Berkshire
RG45 7EG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd. 2328679

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd.
Address 2 Crown Court
Crown Way
Rushden
Northamptonshire
NN10 6BS

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

Squirrels Day Nursery opened in 1990 . It is part of a chain of nurseries operated by Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited.

Squirrels Day Nursery operates from a building within the grounds of Broadmoor hospital.

The nursery is within walking distance of Crowthorne village with easy access to the surrounding local area and motorways.

The nursery primarily serves employees of the hospital.

The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round, except bank holidays. Hours of opening are 8am to 6pm with specially extended hours as needed occasionally by hospital employees.

The nursery is registered to care for 50 children aged three months to five years.

There are 3 main rooms used by the children.

There are currently 77 children on roll. This includes 13 funded three year olds and 11 funded four year olds. The group supports 4 children who speak English as an additional language and 0 children with special needs.

12 full time and eight part time staff work with the children. 14 staff have early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

The nursery offers good quality care for the children. The staff offer a welcoming environment for children and parents. However areas of the building would benefit from refurbishment. The staff work well as a team to support one another and are

well lead by the manager. All new staff and students under go a good staff induction. The staff support the children well but should ensure that the required adult /child ratio's are maintained throughout the day. Good policies and procedures underpin the effective day-to-day running of the nursery.

There is a well planned and nutritious menu. All individual dietary requirements are catered for. Health and safety procedures throughout the nursery are good. Staff actively promote good personal hygiene. All staff conduct regular risk assessments to identify hazards and remove them.

Children are encouraged to take part in a good range of well planned activities, which includes outdoor play. A good range of equipment and resources supports the children development and learning throughout the nursery. Staff support and extend the children's learning. Behaviour throughout the nursery is good, and staff lead by example. All children's individual needs are valued.

The nursery has good relationships with the parents. Staff complete daily record books and development records on each child. These records are shared with parents. Detailed information is supplied to all parents on registration.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Last inspection was a transitional inspection there were no area's highlighted for improvement.

What is being done well?

- Children are happy and settled within the nursery. Children and parents are made to feel welcome and children are shown care and affection.
- Children's individual dietary needs are well catered for.
- The nursery is well resourced and all equipment is well maintained and stored.
- The nursery works well in partnership with parent/carers and good documentation assist in this process.

What needs to be improved?

- the level of staffing to maintain required ratios at all times;
- the maintenance and upkeep of the accommodation, particularly children's bathroom to ensure area's are safe and clean for children to use.

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	the level of staffing to maintain required ratio's at all times.
4	the maintenancance and up keep of the accommodation particularly children's bathroom to ensure area's are safe and clean for children to use.

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

Squirrels Day Nursery offers very good quality provision which helps children make very good progress towards the early learning goals in the six areas of learning. Children are enthusiastic, well behaved and enjoy learning through a wide variety of activities.

Teaching is very good. Staff have a sound knowledge of the foundation stage shown by the activities planned and observed, detailed effective planning and through discussions with staff. Observations of children's learning are recorded and evaluated and used to plan for children's progress. Children with English as an additional language are well supported and strategies are in place to provide support for children with special educational needs.

Leadership and management are very good. The manager and staff work well as a team and are committed to ongoing professional development and continued improvement in the quality of education provided. The support of the nursery owners and senior management is invaluable to the nursery team and provides ongoing monitoring and assessment of teaching methods and planning.

The partnership with parents is excellent and contributes to the children's progress towards the early learning goals. Parents are well informed about their child's time at nursery, their activities and progress. They are encouraged to involve themselves and share home observations with the staff and are able to regularly discuss their child's progress.

What is being done well?

- Children's communication and language skills are very good. They have confidence in their use of language and use a wide vocabulary. They engage easily in conversation with each other and adults.
- Children's personal and emotional development is excellent. They relate well to each other and adults. They respond enthusiastically to new and shared experiences and are confident in communicating their thoughts and feelings. Behaviour is very good.
- Staff have a sound knowledge of the foundation stage evidenced by the curriculum planning, activities offered, discussion with the staff and the use of assessment records to plan for children's progress.
- Staff provide an excellent range of activities and resources to offer the children a greater choice and variations are available to extend more able children.
- The partnership with parents is excellent and contributes to the children's progress towards the early learning goals. They are encouraged to involve

themselves and share home observations with the staff and are able to regularly discuss their child's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- the use of opportunities available to further enhance the children's awareness of numbers and simple calculations in everyday situations;
- the recording of extension activities provided for more able children on the planning sheets.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The nursery has made very good progress since the last inspection when two key issues were raised. These have both been addressed.

Provision has been made for children to develop their physical skills with additional equipment in the refurbished garden. Children demonstrate good co-ordination and confidence in movement and awareness of space . They utilise the garden and the new equipment well and are enthusiastic about outdoor activities.

Staff provide regular opportunities for children to develop their emergent writing skills and record their observations. Children's writing is seen on labels and on their work displayed around the room. Children show confidence in their use of writing.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children respond enthusiastically to new and shared experiences and are confident in communicating their thoughts and feelings. They show good concentration and express their needs and ideas well. They have developing independence skills which are fostered by staff and are well motivated to experience the activities on offer. They are well behaved and share toys and resources. Staff form good relationships with the children, show consistent interest and involve themselves in children's play.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children have confidence in their use of language and use a wide vocabulary. They engage easily in conversation with each other and adults. Children practise writing for a variety of purposes and some can write their names and other words with correct letter formations. Children are confident in finding their name cards, enjoy books and recognise and predict text for example, Biff and Chip in a story, and begin to understand that print carries meaning.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to count up to and beyond ten and some recognise numerals up to and beyond nine. They independently apply mathematical skills during play for example counting candles on a cake. Children enjoy using shape and positional language, singing number rhymes and counting in arranged activities for example shopping lists and giving change. The wide range of opportunities and effective teaching helps to develop children's mathematical skills.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children experience an excellent range of activities to learn from first hand experiences, which helps promote the use of their senses, for example planting and examining seeds and plants. They talk confidently about events in their own lives and the world around them. Children show familiarity and expertise and are confident users of technology in everyday activities. For example mouse control at the computer, and telephone and calculator use in the role play areas.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children demonstrate good co-ordination and confidence in movement and awareness of space. They utilise the garden well and are enthusiastic about outdoor activities. Staff encourage them to be active and to play safely joining in with the games, for example running and hopping the length of the garden. The children show good awareness of basic hygiene and confidence in their personal care skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are able to express ideas freely through a wide range of activities and media. These enable them to explore colour, texture, taste, shape and form. They use their imagination well in role play and when retelling stories from picture books. Children enjoy singing songs, joining in from memory, matching actions to the words and take an active role in music making. Staff support and encourage children well with clear information and a wide range of resources.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- utilise everyday situations for example snack times, to reinforce and further enhance the children's awareness of number and simple calculations;
- record extension activities provided for the more able children on the planning sheets.

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.

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.