



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 303818

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 16/11/2004
Inspector Name Annette Stanger

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name St. Mary's Out of School Club
Setting Address Swires Road
King Cross
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX1 2ER

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Mary's Out of School Club Committee

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Mary's Out of School Club Committee
Address Swires Road
King Cross
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX1 2ER

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

St Mary's Out of School Club is situated in St Mary's Catholic Primary school in the King Cross area of Halifax, and is committee run.

A maximum of 33 children may attend the out of school provision at any one time. The provision includes a breakfast club and an after school club. These are open each weekday from 07.30 to 09:00 and from 15:30 to 18:00 during term time only. The areas used include a quiet room, wet area, infant hall and an enclosed outside area.

The out of school provision employs five staff and two relief workers. Staff have been on the Basic Playwork course but the majority of staff do not have a relevant level 2 qualification. The co-ordinator is currently working towards a level 3 qualification in Playwork.

There are suitable systems in place to support children with special educational needs.

How good is the Day Care?

St Mary's Out of School Club provides satisfactory care for children. There is suitable provision for rest and play purposes which appropriately meet the children's needs. The space is used well to give scope for free movement and well spread out activities. However the toilet facilities do not meet requirements. The staff have relevant experience appropriate to the position but with regard to staff qualifications, the minimum requirements are not currently being met. Most of the documentation is in place, but many of the policies and procedures lack the required detail.

Most safety precautions have been taken to minimise potential hazards, and staff are effectively deployed to supervise children. Basic snacks are provided for children at each session. Staff are aware of child protection procedures and the appropriate steps to be taken if concerned about a child's welfare, although the written procedure is lacking the required detail.

The range of activities and play opportunities on offer are suitable for the varied age group attending. Children choose from a suitable range of activities and equipment, and planned activities are also available. An example of this involved children making Christmas decorations during an art activity, which they found enjoyable.

Staff treat the children with equal concern and their individual needs are catered for appropriately in partnership with parents and professionals.

Staff provide parents with daily verbal feedback about their child's time at the session.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection there were actions raised relating to improving the following; staff qualifications, risk assessments, sharing policies and procedures with parents and improving the documentation to include the required detail. However minimal progress has been made since the last inspection. A parents pack has now been produced which contains policies and procedures and information about the provision, and the manager of the setting is now working towards a level 3 qualification in Playwork. However, action still needs to be taken to ensure minimum qualifications are met and the documentation includes the required detail as laid out in the National Standards.

What is being done well?

- There are good systems in place to support children with special needs. The staff work effectively in partnership with parents and professionals to ensure children's individual needs are met and to promote the children's welfare and development.
- The staff are deployed well to allow children to make good use of the available space and freely move between activities of their choice.

What needs to be improved?

- the staff qualifications, with regard to at least half of all childcare staff holding a qualification appropriate to the post
- the attention to hygiene, with regard to the toilet facilities
- safety with regards to the risk assessments
- the snacks provided, to ensure they are nutritious and in sufficient quantities
- the documentation on special needs and child protection.

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.)

There are no complaints to report.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	Develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification appropriate to the post.	15/12/2004
4	Take appropriate measures to address the odour in the toilets.	17/11/2004
10	Devise and make available to parents, a written statement on special needs which is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff.	10/12/2004
13	Ensure the written statement on child protection includes contact numbers for reporting and procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.	01/12/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
6	Ensure risk assessments are reviewed to include any new potential hazards, and include the action taken to minimise the risk.
8	Ensure snacks are nutritious and in suitable quantities to meet the children's needs.

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.