



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY255445

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/08/2004
Inspector Name Cheryl Langley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name First Steps
Setting Address 2 Cheshunt Park Farm
Park Lane Paradise
Cheshunt
HERTS
EN7 6PZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name First Steps
Address 2 Cheshunt Park
Cheshunt
Waltham Cross
Hertfordshire
EN7 6PZ

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

First Steps Private Day Nursery opened in March 2003. The Nursery serves the local community and surrounding areas and operates from a cottage on a farm in Cheshunt.

There are currently 25 children on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting will support children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week, all year round, except for Bank Holidays and two weeks annual leave, for which six months notice is given to parents. Sessions are from 08.00 to 18.00.

Six members of staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ Level 2 or 3.

How good is the Day Care?

First Steps Day Nursery provides satisfactory care for children. The staff provide a warm and welcoming environment for the children and their families. Children can take part in planned activities or choose freely from a broad range of toys and resources. Space within the nursery building and outside is organised to ensure that children have the opportunity for both physical and relaxed play. Additional documentation to support this Nursery in meeting the National Standards needs to be in place.

Staff have an awareness of health and safety procedures and this should be improved upon by conducting regular risk assessments. Staff have some knowledge of child protection procedures, behaviour management and special needs. However, additional training would benefit the staff and support their practice. Children are developing good hygiene practices and learning the importance of a healthy diet. They are well supported by staff who respond to their individual needs and interests. Praise and encouragement is given to all children and positive behaviour is valued and encouraged.

There is a balanced range of activities provided for the children. They play well together and are relaxed and happy with the staff. The children are involved, interested and enjoy their play.

There is a valuable partnership established with parents. Parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress informally should they wish.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The staffing levels in place enable a high level of interaction between the staff and children at all times. Staff value and encourage the children throughout the day.
- Children can choose freely from a stimulating range and balance of activities. They are encouraged to build on their natural curiosity as learners, develop their language skills and mathematical thinking, use their imagination and develop social relationships through play. Staff listen and value what the children say, engaging them in discussion and using praise to encourage their development and confidence. Children choose independently from singing, arts and crafts, puzzles, or from the broad selection of toys and resources for free play.
- A large safe outside play area provides opportunities for physical play with a good range of equipment. Staff take advantage of the location of the nursery to enable children to learn about their natural environment. Situated within a working farm and close to a forest, children can observe free range chickens, geese and other farm animals and wild deer. The children were excited about going for a walk together.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedures for maintaining safety through risk assessment and recording of fire drills
- the procedure for updating staff knowledge and understanding of child protection, special needs and behaviour management
- the procedures for updating and devising necessary policies and procedures
- documentation for medication, emergency medical advice or treatment and recording of staff attendance.

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 |
|-----|---|------------|
| 6 | Conduct regular risk assessments on the premises identifying action(s) to be taken to minimize identified risks and prevent accident, this should include the position of the television. | 31/08/2004 |
| 14 | Ensure policies and documentation is up to date to meet the National Standards. This is with reference to: procedures for lost or uncollected children; behaviour management to include bullying; child protection to include the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff and the register to include staff attendance. | 31/08/2004 |
| 14 | Obtain permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and in the medicine administered record include the medication given with staff signature and the parent's signature to acknowledge the entry. | 31/08/2004 |

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

| Std | Recommendation |
|-----|--|
| 6 | Keep records of fire drills and certificates and ensure this information is available at all times to the Fire Safety Officer. |
| 10 | Update knowledge of Special needs to enable staff to have regard to the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. |
| 11 | Ensure that there is a named member of staff responsible for behaviour management issues and they have the skills to support staff and access expert advice if required. |
| 13 | Ensure that there is a trained member of staff who has responsibility for child protection issues, in order that the provision acts in the best interests of the children, should abuse or neglect be suspected. |

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.