



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY269733

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/01/2005
Inspector Name Lindsey Wright

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Little Rascals Out of School Club
Setting Address North Watford Methodist Church
The Harebreaks
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD24 6NF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Moira Hine

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

Little Rascals out of school group opened in the Methodist Church, North Watford in September 2003. It operates from one main hall with adjoining kitchen and appropriate cloakrooms. The group serves the local area.

There are currently 38 children from 4 to 11 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports children who have special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term only. Sessions are from 15:00 until 18:00.

Seven part time staff work with the children. Some staff have an NVQ level II qualification and a level III qualification in Play work. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Little Rascals out of school group provides satisfactory care for children. Staff are suitably qualified in play work. The staff team are committed and pro active in their approach. The premises used for the group enables children to have adequate space to enjoy their play and activities. A range of resources are available that children choose, which staff set up each day. A review of the documentation that underpins the day- to- day running of the club are necessary.

Premises are secure and safety is promoted generally well with reasonable precautions taken to ensure children's safety. Risk assessments are in place for certain procedures. Arrangements for meals are healthy and relaxed and staff have a good understanding of children's dietary needs which are acknowledged and accommodated. Staff promote children's individual needs as appropriate.

Children arrive happily and are familiar with the routine. They are well supported by staff who help them to have fun by facilitating available activities and by responding to individual requests. A flexible weekly plan of activities is in place.

Staff have developed friendly and supportive relationships with parents and provide a valuable service to the community. Parents receive written information about the group and verbal feedback is given regularly.

What has improved since the last inspection?

This is the first inspection since registration.

What is being done well?

- The staff's relationship with the children is very good. The out of school group provides a good range of toys and resources that meet each child's individual needs and promotes their self esteem. Children are happy and confident in their care and staff are good role models. The children are learning to respect and value each other, and they behave well. The staff are a close well matched team who support each other.
- There is a warm, welcoming and safe environment for both children and their parents. There are health and safety policies in place that provide the staff, children and parents with clear guidelines for the promotion of children's health and safety whilst attending the group.
- Staff have attended recent First Aid training, and are confident to apply their knowledge of this.
- Children are provided with a healthy snack that promotes children's health and development. The staff have introduced apples, replacing sweets to be eaten at children's birthday tea.
- The staff meet the individual needs of the children well. Children are offered choice in their play and resources. Some resources reflect positive images.
- The staff have established effective partnership with parents. Information is regularly shared, appropriate written parental consents are obtained and documentation completed at the start of any placements. The leader ensures confidentiality is maintained at all times.

What needs to be improved?

- ensure written statements regarding Equal Opportunities, Special needs, Behaviour Management, Complaints procedure, Child protection and lost or uncollected child are maintained
- develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues
- ensure an incident book is maintained

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	ensure a procedure for lost or uncollected child is in place	26/01/2005
12	make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint	26/01/2005
13	ensure that the child protection procedure for the nursery (playgroup etc) complies with local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures	26/01/2005

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

Std	Recommendation
9	devise an equal opportunities policy that is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff and shared with parents
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
11	devise a written statement that provides details on behaviour management, including bullying, which states the methods used to manage children's behaviour
13	develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues
13	ensure a separate incident book is maintained

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.