



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY264541

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 22/07/2004
Inspector Name Diane Mary O'Neill

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Child Base at the QE2
Setting Address Howlands
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL7 4HH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Child Base Ltd 01908 211699

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Child Base Ltd
Address Kingston House, Northampton Road
Newport Pagnell
Buckinghamshire
MK16 8NJ

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

Child Base QE2 Nursery has been registered since May 2003. It operates from a two storey purpose built premises in the ground of the QE2 Hospital in Welwyn Garden City. The nursery has areas for children under one year, for children aged one to two years, for children aged two to three years and children aged three to five years. There are discovery, sensory and quiet rooms.

A large enclosed garden is available which has an impact absorbant surface and surface for climbing equipment. A separate area for babies is included. There is a large reception area and separate office. The nursery provides places for NHS staff and the local community.

There are currently 55 children aged from 6 months to 4 years on roll. This includes 4 funded 3 year olds, currently there are no funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently has no children attending with special educational needs, there is a small number of children who have English as an additional language.

The nursery is open five days a week all year round. opening times are from 7am to 7pm.

There are 8 full and 3 part time staff working with the children, a number of whom hold early years qualifications. Members of staff are participating in Child Base's own training -"Sound Foundations".

How good is the Day Care?

The Child Base QE2 Nursery provides good care for children aged 6 months to 5 years.

The nursery provides a welcoming environment where clear routines have been established.

Staff work as a team giving high priority in getting to know the children as individuals, including those with Special Educational Needs. An effective key worker system is in place, which enables staff to establish consistent relationships with children and parents.

Staff provide a safe and secure environment for the children. They ensure that the space in all the rooms is used to maximise the children learning potential, but still offering a happy atmosphere. Health, hygiene and safety within the nursery is generally good, although staff need to be vigilant with certain hygiene practices.

There is a good range of toys and resources accessible to all the children within the nursery. The children participate in a variety of activities and play opportunities, which promote their learning in all areas. The rooms follow topics, which usually link into the early learning goals and the "Sound Foundation" ethos, which the nursery follows. Staff follow very clear and concise practices with regards behaviour management, that enables a consistent approach throughout the nursery.

Staff have a friendly and positive working relationship with the parents. There are systems in place that enables the sharing of information, such as notice boards outside all rooms. Policies and procedures are displayed which are easily accessible to parents. Staff however, need to ensure the parents sign all records of administered first aid and medication.

Most of the staff hold recognised childcare qualifications. The staff do regular training courses to keep them up-to-date with childcare practices. Some training is delivered in house by management.

The documentation and policies are very clear and informative.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The children are involved in a wide range of activities. The daily routine within planning ensures that the activities are interesting and stimulating, encouraging children's learning and development. These activities are flexible depending on the needs of individual children.
- The staff use the resources and all play areas, imaginatively to provide fun and interesting learning experiences, for example their sensory rooms enable all children to freely feel and explore properties of different textures and mediums.
- There are good staffing levels in place that include effective key worker systems. This enables a high level of interaction between the staff and children at all times.
- The staff are consistent and use positive methods in their approach to managing children's behaviour. They skilfully negotiate any disagreements and promote social skills such as sharing and taking turns. The children are aware of the boundaries and they behave well and enjoy playing together.
- There is an effective partnership with parents where all information about their children is shared. Through daily discussion and notice boards outlining

the day's events, parents are informed of what children have been doing. Parents also have access to the nurseries policies and procedures.

- Staff are dedicated to undertaking training courses, this helps them keep up to date with on going information as well as developing their own learning and practice.
- Good organisation and management, with a dedicated staff team working very well together.

What needs to be improved?

- Registers to be up to date with daily information.
- Parents to sign all recorded administration of first aid and medication.
- Staff to be more aware of young children with runny noses, to ensure good hygiene practice.

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	Ensure all room registration entries are up to date.
7	Ensure parental signatures is obtained for administering first aid and medication to children.
7	Ensure that staff are aware of hygiene practices. (With reference to cleaning children's noses.)

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.