



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 146468

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 07/08/2003
Inspector Name Gyatri Rupal

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Symonds Green Play Centre
Setting Address 145 Scarborough Avenue
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 2HD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Stevenage Borough Council

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Stevenage Borough Council
Address SBC Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 2HD

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

Symonds Green Play centre is one of the Open Access Playschemes run by Stevenage Borough Council. It takes place in the Symonds Green Community Centre Annexe Building

and serves the needs of the local community.

The centre is situated in a residential area close to local shops. The area available for children includes one large room and an enclosed garden, although currently the garden is not in use.

The playscheme is registered for 40 children aged 5-8 years. It is open all year round, the opening hours are usually 9:30am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-5pm during school holidays, 3:30-6pm during term time, and on Saturdays from 10-12:30 and 1:30-4pm. There are five members of staff and one volunteer who work with the children. The building has a no smoking policy.

How good is the Day Care?

Symonds Green Play Centre provides good quality care for children.

The centre provides a welcoming and friendly environment where children are settled and relaxed. The space is well organised to provide a wide range of activities. The children enjoy the activities on offer and also enjoy the opportunity to socialise and make new friends. Staff actively support the children's activities and encourage their interest. The daily routine includes time for children to visit a well managed tuck shop.

The staff give high priority to safety and take positive steps to promote it. However, regard needs to be taken in relation to staff's hot drinks.

The leader has a good understanding of how to effectively manage the provision. The children are busy and well behaved and staff have appropriate strategies for managing children's behaviour.

There is a good partnership with the parents and carers. They are well informed about the policies and procedures and the centre's responsibilities. Most of the information is displayed in the centre. The parents are encouraged to discuss any

issues with staff. They appreciate the provision and the opportunities it offers for their children.

All staff undertake extensive training. They are well informed about the procedures for running a playscheme. However, the ratio of qualified staff needs addressing. Overall the policies and procedures are well documented and adhered to by the staff team.

What has improved since the last inspection?

All the recommendations made last year have been implemented.

What is being done well?

- A good range of activities and play opportunities is provided by the Centre. (St. 3)
- There is a friendly and relaxed environment where children are well settled. (St. 4)
- The activities and resources promote equal opportunities for all the children. (St.9)
- The leader has a good understanding of children with special needs. One to one support is available where necessary. (Standard 10)
- Staff manage children's behaviour sensibly and effectively
- (Standard 11)
- Good communication with the parents.
- Parents are kept well informed about the centre's policies by the information on display in the centre. (St 12)
- Policies and procedures are comprehensive, informative and regularly reviewed. They support the centre's provision of good care for children. (St. 14)

What needs to be improved?

- -staffing ratios in relation to qualified staff.
- (Standard 2)
- - safety with regard to staff's hot drinks.
- (Standard 6)

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 that 50% of staff working with children are qualified.
6	ensure that safety measures are in place with regard to staff's hot drinks.

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.