



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 147492

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/10/2003
Inspector Name Kanwal Sonia Lobo

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name AJ's Playscheme
Setting Address St Joseph's School
Watford Way
London
NW4 4TY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of Jenny & Brenan McNally

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Jenny & Brenan McNally
Address St Mary's School
Prothero Gardens, Hendon
London
NW4

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

AJ's Play Scheme has been registered since 1997.

The group operate from St Joseph's Junior School which is situated off the Watford way and is close to local amenities. The areas of the School that are accessed by the children and used by the group are the dining hall, gym, girls and boys toilets, play room, art room, first aid room, staff toilets, staff room and the playground.

The group caters for the needs of children from the local community and who attend the school.

There are currently 23 children under eight years attending and one child attending who has a special need. However, children's attendance varies on a daily basis. The group also cater for the needs of older children.

The staffing levels reflect the required ratios, of one to eight, according to the number of places filled. At present, there are three members of staff who either have or a working towards a child care qualification. Four of the staff team are qualified first aiders.

The group is open from Monday to Friday during school holidays from 09:00pm until 17:30pm.

AJ's out of school care is privately owned.

How good is the Day Care?

AJ's play scheme at St Joseph's School offer a good standard of care.

The staff team work well together and communicate with each other effectively. They interact well with the children, acknowledging their achievements and good behaviour. Positive behaviour management strategies are used and the staff teach children about the rules, expectations and lead by example.

At present half the staff team do not hold a level 2 qualification but are working towards meeting the requirement for staff qualifications.

The environment is warm and welcoming and children's work is displayed along with the Club rules and other information creating a sense of belonging.

The space is used creatively to meet the individual needs of the children and to accommodate play and learning.

Toys, play provision and resources offered are safe and in good condition, meeting the needs of children aged from 4 years to 8 years.

There is a good range of stimulating activities that are planned and organised well, and children are encouraged to participate and enjoy.

The staff give priority to ensuring children are safe both inside and when outdoors and risk assessments are undertaken. However there is a lack of awareness of potential risks within some areas of the premises that are accessible to children.

The staff have established working relationships with the parents that are of a professional status and parents are kept well informed through sharing information and well documented records, policies and procedures. However, at present the record of attendance for both children and staff does not include the times of their arrival and departure and some of the required records are not readily accessible and available for inspection.

What has improved since the last inspection?

No actions were raised at the last inspection.

What is being done well?

- The environment is warm and welcoming and children's creative work is displayed to create a sense of belonging and a feeling of self worth.
- A good range of stimulating activities that are planned and organised well, support children's learning in all areas of development.
- Space is used creatively and effectively to meet the individual needs of the children and to accommodate play and learning.
- Positive behaviour management strategies are in place and are used in line with the children's level of understanding and maturity.
- The relationship between the staff and parents is of a professional status and the staff keep the parents well informed of their child's progress and achievements.

What needs to be improved?

- the system for registering children and staff attendance and the availability of required records for inspection
- the staff qualifications so that at least half of all staff hold a level 2 qualification in child care
- The safe storage/accessibility of dangerous substances.

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	Develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare.
6	Make sure that dangerous substances are inaccessible to children at all times.
14	Make sure that the record of daily attendance includes the times of arrival and departure for children and staff and have available and readily accessible all the required records for inspection at all times.

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.