



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 146737

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/05/2003
Inspector Name Sarah Catherine Jex

SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name Smartys Day Nursery
Setting Address Old Community Centre
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 2UZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ms Linzi Crossman

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

Smartys Day Nursery opened in 1993. It has a charitable status, and is supported by the Westmill Community Association Management Committee. The nursery operates from a wooden building, which is set back from the main road in a residential area of Hitchin. The building consists of an entrance hall, 2 separate play rooms for different aged children, a kitchen, an office, toilet area, nappy changing area and a separate sleep room. There is an outside area for outdoor play which is fully enclosed. The Nursery have sole use of the premises. The Nursery serves the local community. Smartys Day Nursery are registered for 27 children aged 0 to 5 years, of these only 12 maybe under 2 years. (Usually only children from 3 months are accepted). No overnight care is provided. There are currently 38 children from 3 months to 5 years on roll. The Nursery do not take three and four year old funded children. The children attend for a variety of sessions. At present the Nursery have no children with special needs. The Nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. From 08.00 to 18.00 There are 10 full time staff who work with the children. 7 have early years qualifications. 1 staff member is currently training. The setting receives support from a Development worker.

How good is the Day Care?

Smartys Nursery provides satisfactory care overall for children aged 0 to 5 years. Smartys Nursery provides the children with a welcoming, stimulating, clean, relaxed setting where the children feel settled and secure. The Nursery offer a well organised environment which enables staff to work closely together which is a strength of the Nursery. Staff give high priority and takes positive steps to promote safety within the Nursery and on outings. Procedures are in place to prevent accidents and to meet Health & Safety recommendations. The Nursery shows attention to hygiene and the children are encouraged to develop good hygiene practices, such as hand washing routines and brushing teeth after lunch. A range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks are provided and special dietary requirements are taken into consideration. A wide range of play materials and toys are in place to develop all aspects of care, learning and play. These are presented in a way to encourage children to play. Planning incorporates rest time, sleep time, free play and outdoor play activities. Children's access to resources and freedom of choice is limited as the Nursery has an ongoing storage problem. The Nursery has good strategies for Behaviour Management which are shared with the parents to develop a positive and consistent approach for the children. The staff have developed good relationships with the parents and share daily written records about

their child's progress, so they are more actively involved with their child's day. All relevant documentation is in place. However the Nursery need to ensure that procedures are complied with and information updated. All policies and procedures are clear and available to the parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last Inspection the Nursery agreed to: Ensure that the daily registration system includes times of arrival and departure of the children. This has been completed by adding another column to the daily registers for parents to log in arrival and departure times of the children.

What is being done well?

The staff have good relationships with the children and spend time talking, listening to them along with giving the children reassurance when needed, the children are settled and secure in their care (st 1, 3, 5) There are good policies for safety issues, staff give priority to the children's safety both inside and outside the Nursery (st 6, 7) Good attention to children individual hygiene practice, encouraging good routines for hand washing and brushing of teeth after lunch (st 7) The Nursery have good strategies for Behaviour Management which are shared with the parents. The children knew the boundaries for behaviour and responded when staff intervened of an issue (st 11) The Nursery staff have good working relationships with the parents, ensuring the children's needs are discussed regularly and keeps good records of attendance, health and dietary needs. (st 8, 12, 14)

What needs to be improved?

each entry on the Accident/Medication Sheets are signed by parents. (Standard 7)
The organisation of storage. (Standard 4) information for parents to contact Ofsted. (Standard 12)

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown

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

Std	Recommendation
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4	ensure the organisation of storage is effective, to allow children more access to the resources and freedom of choice.
7	ensure parents sign each entry on Accident/Medication sheets
12	ensure parents are aware of the phone number to contact Ofsted.

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.