



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 403957

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 17/02/2004
Inspector Name Paula Durrant

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Springlands Day Nursery
Setting Address The Baby Chalet
185a Shrub End Road
Colchester
Essex
CO3 4RG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ms Catherine House

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

Springlands Nursery Baby Chalet opened in January 2001. The baby chalet operates from a converted house and is situated in Colchester, a few minutes walk away from Springlands nursery. The baby chalet is used by parents who live and work in the local and wider community. The baby chalet consists of two baby rooms and a milk kitchen. There are separate changing facilities and an outside play area.

The baby chalet is registered to provide places for twelve babies aged between birth and two years. There are currently twenty one babies on roll. Babies attend for a variety of sessions.

The baby chalet is open five days a week for forty eight weeks a year from 7.30 am to 6.00 pm.

Seven staff work with the babies. five staff have Early Years qualifications. Three members of staff are working towards NVQ 2 Child Care and Education qualifications.

The setting has achieved a number of awards including Investors in People, Safety Awards and Quality Counts, from the National Day Nurseries Association Accreditation Scheme.

How good is the Day Care?

Springlands baby chalet provides good care for children.

The unit is exceptionally well organised with strong leadership and an emphasis on the care of the children. Staff work cohesively as a team sharing roles and responsibilities, demonstrating a commitment and dedication to their work.

Play opportunities are outstanding. Staff have a firm knowledge of children's developmental milestones and set activities to develop and extend these skills. Plans are flexible and play is governed by children's own interests. Staff monitor children's individual achievements and share these openly with parents.

The premises is enriching for young children. It is safe, bright airy and full of visually stimulating experiences. Care and consideration has been given to the layout of the room supporting both mobile and non mobile children effectively.

Resources are exemplary. There is an excellent range of both manufactured and natural materials for young children to build their cognitive skills. Children play in both small and large groups and demonstrate high levels of concentration and perseverance in their tasks for their age and stage of development.

There are dynamic systems in place to monitor Health and Safety both for children and staff. All necessary safety precautions are implemented and reviewed regularly.

Mealtimes are extremely social periods of the day and children are encouraged where appropriate to maintain their independence using finger foods and appropriate cutlery.

Staff know the children well and deal with their individual care needs as a priority. An excellent key worker system ensures continuity of care and high quality relationships with parents.

Children demonstrate consideration as they share toys and openly express compassion to others.

The nurseries has comprehensive documentation in place. It supports the ongoing organisational procedures well. The setting fully informs the parents about the care that their children receive.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Group have a clear understanding of their registration and adherence to the National Standards.
- The team leader effectively mentors her staff promoting a strong role model. Staff regularly update their skills through the attendance of training.
- Staff solely dedicate their working day to meeting individual care needs and promoting a highly stimulating sensory environment to nurture the developmental skills of very young children.
- Play is productive and purposeful. Children are effectively monitored in their developmental achievements. The unit are currently consolidating the birth to three sure start programme alongside their existing programme.
- Young children are extremely confident and competent for their age and stage of development.
- The premises is carefully and considerately organised with sufficient floor space for young children to increase their mobility safely. Low level stable units allow opportunities for cruising and independence when selecting toys.
- Springlands Nursery holds the British safety award and have maintained this for the seven years.

- Mealtimes are used effectively to support social graces. Children are encouraged to sign and say please and thank you using Makaton. Children are very able and articulate their feelings well.
- Staff know the children well and respect individual quirks and preferences. They support children to participate in all activities and know their limitations.
- Staff have an exceptional working relationship with parents.
- Extensive documentation supports the nursery in their organisational and evaluative high quality practice.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Staff's dedication, commitment and progressive childcare practice that ensures high quality care is implemented to nurture young children's learning experiences effectively.

What needs to be improved?

- The further enhancement of the current learning programme by continuing to work with the available literature such as
- "Birth to Three Matters".

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
3	Continue to further enhance the current learning programme by continuing to use available literature such as "Birth to Three Matters".

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.