



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127805

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 16/09/2004
Inspector Name Kerry Davey

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Blues Pre School
Setting Address London Road
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3LU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Blues Pre-School Nursery 297486

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Blues Pre-School Nursery
Address London Road
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3LU

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

Blues Pre-School opened in 1979. It operates from a mobile unit in the grounds of Bishops Stortford High School, close to the town centre. The group serves the local area and surrounding villages.

There are currently 74 children from 2 to 4 years on roll. This includes 37 funded 3 year olds and 1 funded 4 year old. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs.

The group opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9.30 until 12:00 and 12.30 to 15:00.

Seven members of staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from a qualified teacher.

How good is the Day Care?

Blues Pre-School provides good care for children. Staff provide a warm, friendly and welcoming environment in which children can play and learn. Good use is made of space to ensure that children are well cared for. Staff work well together as a team and know the children well. All required documentation is in place although a few adjustments are required and have been discussed.

Staff have a good awareness of health and safety procedures and promote personal hygiene routines with children. The group are aware of the need to address children's safety in the garden area and review the risk assessment process. Healthy snacks are offered and drinks are available. Staff work hard to ensure that special needs children are included and involved in activities planned for the session.

Children enjoy their play and are involved in a varied range of activities made available to them, they are able to make choices from a selection of easily accessible resources. They appear happy and settled and have good relationships with each other and staff members.

The partnership with parents is effective. Parents are welcomed by a friendly approachable staff team and are provided with a range of information regarding their children. Positive feedback has been received from parents both verbally and via the

parental questionnaires. Parents refer to the individualised care, attention to the changing needs of children, welcoming environment and opportunities for children to share their home experiences with the group.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to ensure children's safety from hazardous substances, plants and general debris in the garden area, develop the risk assessment, develop policies for complaints, medication and sick children and obtain parental consent for medication.

Plants have been checked and information has been obtained regarding poisonous plants. The garden debris was cleared however, there are now further items that need to be removed. A risk assessment is in place but needs to be developed further. Hazardous substances have been relocated.

All required policies are in place.

What is being done well?

- Staff work well together as a team and are friendly and approachable. They make good use of space and resources which enables children to feel secure and happy. A varied range of activities and resources are provided in order to ensure stimulating play experiences for children. Staff communicate well with the children and interact constantly with them asking open-ended questions to make them think.
- The environment provided is warm, welcoming and child-centred with posters, colourful wall displays of children's artwork and photographs. Moveable partitions are used to separate areas for group and quiet times to reduce distractions.
- Children are provided with healthy snack options. Children's independence is encouraged as they choose when they wish to visit the milk bar for their snack.
- Staff know the children well and are able to offer appropriate care in order to meet their needs.
- Children with special needs are integrated into the group well. There are effective working relationships with parents and outside professionals.
- Staff have a calm and consistent approach to behaviour that is backed up by lots of praise and encouragement. Staff use age-appropriate strategies to manage behaviour and children behave well because they know what is expected of them.
- A warm welcome and good information is provided for parents both verbally and in written form through the parents notice boards, newsletters and group prospectus.

What needs to be improved?

- children's safety in the garden area
- the procedures for risk assessment.

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
6	Ensure that items stored in the garden area do not pose a hazard to children.
6	Ensure that the risk assessment provides opportunities for review and to enable staff to identify action(s) to be taken to minimize identified risks.

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.