



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY287543

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 04/03/2005  
Inspector Name Paula Durrant

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Little Stars Nursery  
Setting Address 23 Queens Road  
Amphill  
Bedford  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 2TD

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Miss Susan Jane Harvey

## 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

Little Stars Day Nursery opened in August 2004. It operates from a single storey refurbished shop unit which comprises an entrance foyer, kitchen, two adjoining play rooms and toilet/changing facilities. The nursery is located on the outskirts of the town of Ampthill. A maximum of fourteen children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each week day from 08:00 until 18:00, all year round, with the exception of public bank holidays. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 29 children aged from 2 to under 8 years on roll. Of these, 8 children receive funding for nursery education. Local children attend. The nursery currently supports a child with special educational needs and there are systems in place to support children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs six staff. Three of the staff, including the manager, hold a level three qualification, two staff hold a level two qualification and one staff member is working towards a recognised child care qualification.

### How good is the Day Care?

Little Stars Day Nursery provides satisfactory care overall for young children.

The nursery is well organised. Staff are dedicated to their working role and demonstrate a commitment to the care of the children as their primary focus. The operational plan is a complex and detailed document. It underpins the ethos and working practice of the setting, however, some policies and procedures require review as they do not support the practice undertaken. The nursery have sole use of a single storey building which is suitably prepared for children.

The nursery have in-depth and detailed risk assessments but have yet to effectively implement these in practice. New procedures have not long been completed. Failure to comply with identified prevention methods in relation to the use of heaters impacts on children's welfare. There are appropriate records to document accidents and medication administered. The group promote a varied and balanced snack programme. There are systems in place to support children with additional needs. Children are well behaved and know the expectations of adults. Play is co-operative and purposeful.

The nursery provide a range of stimulating play based activities to enhance children's learning. However, as the group is small in size, activities can be highly adult directed. Children have few opportunities for decision making and developing independent skills. A majority of resources are stored out of reach and there is little opportunity for self-selection. Staff maintain assessment records in order to monitor children's progress. There is an adequate range of resources covering all developmental areas, however, equipment to challenge older children is restricted.

Parents are welcomed into the setting. They gain regular opportunities to discuss and talk with staff and are able to freely access literature supporting the ethos, care provided, activities undertaken, special events and progress on their child's achievements.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

This is not applicable.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff work exceptionally well together. The small, close-knit team take pride in their working environment. They display a commitment to the children in their care and the families that they work in partnership with. Children appear relaxed and content in this small setting. Staff know the children well and are invited without prompt to join in and actively participate in the children's play. Staff interaction with the children is excellent. It is obvious that they enjoy the children's company and this is reciprocated. Behaviour is outstanding.
- The nursery are highly dedicated to inclusion. They actively link with parents and external professionals to support the individual progress of each child. A good working knowledge and clear, focused care plans ensure the individual needs of all children are respected. Staff are proactive in listening and taking direction from advisers in order to support progression. They welcome ideas and instigate changes as advised. This was observed in practice as a recommendation was made in relation to seating arrangements for lunchtime. The staff ensured that this was put in place immediately, with the child benefitting from sitting alongside peers, creating an integrated social experience.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the organisation of the daily routine and accessibility to resources in order to promote independent choice in play.
- the balance of resources across all developmental areas in order to promote appropriate equipment to sufficiently challenge the older child.
- the systems for monitoring and reviewing written procedures to ensure effective implementation in practice, this refers to risk assessments, reporting of significant incidents and the special needs policy.

- the procedure for reporting significant events.

**PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)**

There are no complaints to report.

**Outcome of the inspection**

Satisfactory

**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 must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
7	ensure that there are clear procedures in place to support the reporting of significant incidents to Ofsted in compliance with the National Standards requirements	18/03/2005

**The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
2	review the organisation and timing of the daily routine, activities and resources, in order to gain a balance of adult directed and child initiated tasks, further developing opportunities for children to make independent choices in their play and accessing resources.
5	develop your resources in order to provide a suitable balance of equipment across all developmental areas that will engage and challenge the older child.
14	ensure written procedures are reviewed and effectively implemented in practice. This refers to risk assessments, reporting of significant events and the special needs policy.

## **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.*