



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY285938

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 14/01/2005
Inspector Name Caroline Wright

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Sessional Day Care, Creche Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name Cartwheels Children's Centre
Setting Address Greenfields Way
Haverhill
Suffolk
CB9 8LU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Cartwheels Playcentre 04773561 1085483

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Cartwheels Playcentre
Address The Old Courthouse
Camps Road
Haverhill
Suffolk
CB9 8HF

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

Cartwheels Children's Centre was first opened in 2004 and operates from purpose built premises close to the town centre of Haverhill, in Suffolk. The centre is registered to accept up to 60 children at any one time. Opening times are 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday all year round. The children use an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 18 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these, five children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local area. The nursery currently supports a number of children who have special educational needs.

The nursery employs five members of staff, four of these, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is currently working towards an accredited early years qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Cartwheels Children's Centre provides good quality care for children aged 0 to under eight years.

Staff supervise children well and maintain good adult to child ratios. All areas of the premises are safe and most of the essential documents are in place. An informal induction procedure helps new staff learn about their role, but some members of the team are not fully informed about child protection procedures.

Relationships between adults and children are very good. Children initiate conversations and adults are interested in what children say and do. Staff make very good use of the play space available and promote equal opportunities for all children to access equipment and resources independently. They provide a warm and welcoming environment to help children and their families feel welcome. Staff encourage children to pursue their own interests and make decisions, and they organise the provision of snacks and drinks for children each morning. However, meals provided to children are not suitably balanced and do not adequately meet their nutritional needs. Good procedures are in place to help children learn about health and hygiene. There are satisfactory systems in place to provide support for children with special educational needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents know what is going on through regular newsletters, notices around the centre and an informative prospectus. Parents are confident to discuss their children's progress with the staff at hand over times.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The centre manager has developed good procedures to help staff to work as a team. Weekly staff meetings and informal one to one discussions help staff to learn what is expected of them. Regular appraisals, which identify areas for further development and ongoing training, provide continuing support for all staff. A clear operational plan is available for further reference to all staff and volunteers, so that they know how the centre runs on a day to day basis
- Staff provide a good range of practical activities for children and encourage them to choose their own resources. Staff make sure that the activities they plan are suitable for the age group of children present each day, so that the children will find them interesting. They make cakes to share at tea time, create skeletons from lolly-pop sticks and adults set up a doctor's surgery in the role play area, to help children learn about how their bodies work. Staff play games indoors and outdoors with the children to help them learn through their play.
- The staff provide a stimulating environment, with attractive displays of children's work, for families to enjoy. Toys are well organised and easily accessible so that children can pursue their own interests and set their own challenges. Activities are set out by staff before the sessions begin, so that children feel welcome in the setting and are keen to leave their parents and take part in the learning opportunities provided.
- The centre pays particular attention to the safety of children and adults. A comprehensive risk assessment document addresses all areas of the premises that they use and the activities that the staff provide; staff highlight areas that are a potential hazard and state the steps that must be taken to minimise the risks. Staff use a special cot to carry several babies at one time when they practice fire drills each month, and a number of escape routes are clearly marked to enable them to evacuate the premises effectively.

What needs to be improved?

- food and drink, so that children are provided with a well balanced diet that meets all of their nutritional needs
- staffs knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures, so that they can act appropriately in the event of concerns for a child's welfare
- documents, so that contact details of the registered provider are in place; a clear record shows which staff are looking after the children at any one time;

and parents are properly informed about medicines administered to their children.

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

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
14	Make sure that details of registered provider (management committee) are maintained on site.
14	Make sure that the daily record of attendance clearly shows the times that all adults are present.
14	Make sure that parents sign to acknowledge each dose of medication administered to their children.
8	Provide children with suitably balanced and nutritious meals .
13	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures for dealing with concerns for children's well-being.

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.