



Ofsted Report

Ofsted Day Care Inspection Report

Cedars Nursery (Newcastle)

14th July 2003



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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

Cedars Nursery opened in September 2002. It operates from two floors of a three storey detached mansion set within enclosed grounds opposite the General Hospital in the west end of Newcastle Upon Tyne. The nursery serves the immediate neighbourhood as well as people commuting to the centre of Newcastle.

There are currently 68 children aged from six weeks to five years on roll. This includes 23 children aged three and four who are in receipt of funding. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery offers support to children with special needs and those who have English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round, closing only between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 8.00 until 18.00.

Eight part/full time staff work with the children and there are two relief workers available to cover sickness and holidays; of these seven staff have early years qualifications and one member of staff is currently on a training programme. The setting receives support from Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Cedars Nursery provides a good standard of care. The staff have a good level of qualifications and experience. There are

excellent written policies and procedures in place, which staff understand and implement appropriately. The staff interact well with the children, are interested in what they say and recognise them as individuals. They offer praise and encouragement and set good role models. The staff work well together and leadership is good.

The children are provided with a warm and welcoming environment and regard is given to ensuring the children's safety. There are consistent everyday routines for eating, resting, playing and going out, which help the children to feel secure and look forward to their day. Most areas for promoting children's health and safety are satisfactory.

The staff plan and provide a broad range of activities which develop children's knowledge and understanding: activities are presented in an interesting and thoughtful way. The children are interested and fully involved in activities, they are keen to communicate to their carers what they are doing and find things out for themselves. The children behave well and are happy and settled in the nursery environment.

There is an excellent relationship between parents and staff. Parents are listened to and are well-informed about the provision and their children's progress through regular daily discussion and written information.

What has improved since the last inspection?

No applicable as this was the nursery's first inspection.

What is being done well?

- Staff build warm and trusting relationships with children, which helps children to feel settled and secure (Standard 11).
- The children are recognised as individuals and staff plan for and meet their differing needs well. The excellent range of activities available to babies helps them to make progress and have fun (Standard 3).
- There is a commitment to constantly improving how space and resources are used in order to create a stimulating, orderly and supportive environment for the children (Standard 4).
- There is a strong partnership between parents and staff. Parents are listened to and their wishes regarding how their child is cared for and valued. They are very well informed about the provision and their children's progress (Standard 12).
- The nursery has excellent recording systems and policies and procedures in place. This information is used to inform partnership with parents and to underpin good practice with individual children (Standards 12 and 14).

An aspect of outstanding practice

Full participation in accreditation schemes enables the manager and staff to be committed to continuous improvement, reflect critically on what needs to be improved and systematically plan ways to develop practice. This promotes the achievement of more than minimum standards and demonstrates the professional approach to the care provided to the children and the service to their parents (Standard 2).

What needs to be improved?

- Children's safety regarding windows on first floor (Standard 6).
- Staff's knowledge of child protection procedures (Standard 13)

Outcome of Inspection

Good

CONDITION 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 varied 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 6 Ensure the safety of children in the vicinity of windows.

Std 13 Ensure that staff attend professional child protection training in order to gain knowledge and develop working practices.

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.