



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY269942

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 29/09/2004
Inspector Name Kate Bryan

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Steps
Setting Address St Botolph's Old School, 40 Loughborough Road
Shepshed
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE12 9DN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Steps - Leics. Conductive Education Centre 1063143

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Steps - Leics. Conductive Education Centre
Address St Botolph's Old School, 40 Loughborough Road
Shepshed
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE12 9DN

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

Steps Nursery was established in 2003 and is run by a voluntary committee. It operates from a large hall and smaller room with attendant facilities from a converted school premises in Shepshed. It serves the local area.

There are currently 25 children from 3 years to eight years on roll. This includes 3 funded 3-year-olds and 1 funded 4-year-old. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting provides specialist care for children with special educational needs. The setting does not support any children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 09:30 until 15:30.

There are four staff working with the children. All have early years qualifications to NVQ level three and above. The setting receives support from the Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Steps provides good quality for children. Available space is used appropriately so that children have access to a large hall for activities, involving large equipment, and a quieter room for other activities. Rooms are also very well resourced with equipment for Conductive Education. Policies and procedures are very comprehensive, although the accident record has not been signed by parents. The group has lead setting status and all staff are encouraged to pursue training.

Arrangements for health and safety at the group are good. Priority is given to maintaining children's safety and a risk assessment is in place. Procedures are in place for fire evacuations, although fire drills have not been practised at the nursery. All staff are trained first aiders and a policy regarding ill children ensures that the children's well being is promoted by exclusion periods for some illnesses.

The group has a very good range of resources for all children. Very good relationships are in place between children and staff and activities are presented in a lively and enthusiastic manner. This encourages the children to enjoy sessions whilst also learning. Effective and individual planning ensures that all the children's needs are met and regular assessments clearly show what children have achieved

and what they need to learn next. Children with special educational needs receive an extremely good service and the group works closely with a range of other professionals to ensure that appropriate and attainable goals are in place for children. Sensible boundaries are set for children's behaviour which ensure that the children learn through positive examples.

The group works very well in partnership with parents and carers who receive a good range of information about children and the provision. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning via systematic reviews and planning and receive daily progress reports.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The group has a good range of comprehensive policies and procedures in place which clearly informs parents how their child will be cared for at the group.
- Staff and children have very good relationships and children clearly enjoy their time at the nursery. Learning is promoted through play and all children receive Conductive Education to promote their development.
- Children with special educational needs receive an individual and appropriate service compiled in conjunction with parents and other professionals.
- Parents are kept well informed of their child's progress by daily diaries and contact with staff. Good information sharing between home and the nursery ensures that children receive a consistent service.

What needs to be improved?

- the arrangements to carry out periodic fire drills
- the procedures to ensure that parents sign a record of accidents.

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 fire drills are carried out periodically.
14	Ensure that parent's sign the record of accidents.

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.