



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 319181

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	19/08/2003
Inspector Name	Jean Davison

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Free Spirits Nursery
Setting Address	Freeman Road High Heaton Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE7 7DN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Free Spirits Nursery
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Free Spirits Nursery
Address	Freeman Road High Heaton Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE7 7DN

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

Free Spirits nursery opened in 1999. It is owned and managed by Newcastle upon Tyne Hospital's National Health Service Trust and is located in pre-fabricated modules within the Hospital complex in the High Heaton area of Newcastle. The nursery has six separate rooms and serves the staff of the National Health Service Trust. There are currently 149 children from 0-5 years on roll. This includes 16 funded three to four year olds. The nursery offers support to children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 07.00 until 19.00. There are 27 full time staff that work with the children, 99% of whom have an early years qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

How good is the Day Care?

Freeman Hospital Nursery offers good care for children. The manager, deputy and the majority of staff are qualified to the equivalent of NVQ level 3. The staff work very well together as a team and the manager is supportive, approachable and professional. The nursery offers children a wide range and choice of play opportunities and play materials in addition to planned activities to further develop their skills in a safe warm and relaxed environment. The resources available positively promote equality of opportunity and ant-discrimination. The children are secure and confident within the setting.

High levels of supervision are offered both indoors and at outside play. There are sufficient staff to meet the adult child ratios, however due to an emergency placement there were 4 staff - 13 children in the 16 - 20 months (Snowdrops) room on the day of the inspection. The premises are clean and well maintained. Clear guidance and support is available from the Trust's Health and Safety officer however a safety issue was identified.

Good health and hygiene routines are encouraged and the necessary accident and medication records are in place. Children are provided with regular and nutritious meals and drinks throughout the day, which take into account their individual needs and preferences.

The children's individual needs are addressed very well, particularly children with

special needs.

The Nursery has a designated member of staff for Child protection issues and the staff are aware of the child protection procedure with additional support available from the Trust, this could be further developed by additional staff attending training.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers. There is a regular newsletter, parents notice board and parents evenings. There are named photographs of each member of staff displayed at the entrance of each room. The staff share information about the children's achievements on a daily basis

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- The manager and staff have a positive working relationship.
- The staff have a very good relationship with children and the children interact well together.
- Children take part in a wide range of activities where they can choose their own games and make decisions about playing indoors or out. The staff are proud of the children's achievements.
- The cross reference system in place to ensure that all members of staff are aware of the special dietary needs of the children.
- The children respond well to the nursery's clear guidance, praise and encouragement. They eagerly take part in planned activities and behave well.

What needs to be improved?

- the appropriate child-staff ratios;
- the safety of low level open windows;
- the staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection.

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
2	deploy staff to ensure there are sufficient staff working directly with children and the appropriate staff-child ratios are maintained;
6	devise and implement a risk assessment, which ensures that low level open windows are safe;
13	develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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.