



## Spring Harvest

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 253588  
**Inspection date** 18 April 2006  
**Inspector** Hazel Taylor

**Setting Address** Butlins Family Entertainment Resort, Roman Bank, Skegness,  
Lincolnshire, PE25 1UB  
**Telephone number** 01754 762723  
**E-mail**  
**Registered person** Spring Harvest  
**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** Crèche

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
--

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Spring Harvest is a Christian festival which runs for a three week period each year over Easter. The event has been running since 1987. During the festival the organisers run crèche facilities for the children of adults attending. During the sessions children have the opportunity to take part in activities focusing on the Christian faith.

The two crèche facilities are provided on separate sites. One is for children aged from 3 months up to 5 years and can care for a maximum of 230 children at any one time. This crèche operates from the Butlins Nursery building, two mobile buildings

and six chalets. The children are grouped in rooms according to their age. The babies may be cared for in the chalets.

The crèche for children aged from 5 to 7 years is held in the Crazy Horse Saloon and can care for a maximum of 500 children at any one time. Children are placed in groups of approximately 16 children each supervised by 2 members of staff. This crèche operates from a main hall with an adjoining office/kitchen area and appropriate toilet facilities which include disabled access. The children have access to outdoor play held on one of the enclosed basketball courts.

The crèche for 5 to 7-year-olds opens each day, from 10:00 until 13:00. The crèche for under 5- year-olds opens 3 times each day. Sessions are from 10:00 until 11:15, 11:45 until 13:00 and 15:45 until 17:00. The setting has systems in place to support children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are 340 staff who work with the children on a part-time basis during the duration of the programme. Each team has a proportion of staff with a range of appropriate child care qualifications and experience.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's good health and well-being is promoted well by the staff. Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. They independently wash their hands after the toilet and before eating snacks. Children are protected from infection as staff are vigilant about ensuring that all areas of the premises are clean and hygienic and they are well informed about children's health care matters. Key staff hold current first aid certificates which enables them to meet children's health needs appropriately.

Children have easy access to drinking water and are provided with regular drinks throughout the session ensuring that they are unlikely to be thirsty. Snacks are varied and include some fresh fruit so that children are well nourished according to their dietary needs which are clearly documented and known by the staff. Children are developing their awareness of the benefits of healthy eating and positive choices through ongoing discussion during the crèche's programme.

Children enjoy a good range of energetic physical activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. For example, older children have regular opportunities to engage in outdoor play, develop their skills and coordination and participate in team games. Children have access to quiet areas in the setting which enables them to rest and relax according to their needs.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in an environment where safety is given a high priority. Play equipment and toys are well-maintained and conform to safety standards. A thorough risk assessment is undertaken for the areas used by the children which helps staff minimise hazards and ensure children's safety is maintained at all times. The buildings are kept properly secure so that unwanted visitors do not gain access to the setting or present a risk to children. Children are kept safe on outings because staff also manage these well and include them in their risk assessments.

Appropriate safety equipment is provided and children benefit from a range of safety measures which are in place. For example children are kept safe because staff develop a good awareness of fire safety issues and have regular opportunities to practise the fire drill. Children are able to safely use resources and participate in event activities because furniture is organised effectively to ensure children are able to move around freely and safely. Staff give clear instructions on how to use equipment and children take responsibility for keeping themselves safe by using resources as they have been taught.

Staff have a sound awareness of child protection procedures and are committed to further developing their knowledge and understanding of issues through training. Staff are aware of procedures to follow if they had any concerns. They know the relevant agencies to contact and consequently, children are protected and their welfare is safeguarded.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting and are happy and settled. They have very good opportunities to develop their social skills whilst playing with other children and through sensitive interaction with staff. They join in enthusiastically during indoor and outdoor activities and enjoy accessing a stimulating range of activities and resources which appeal to their individual interests.

Children respond very well to staff and form effective relationships with other children. Children are very well-behaved and consideration for one another, their environment and property are encouraged at all times. Staff skilfully support children during activities and promote language skills and vocabulary through effective interaction and lively conversation. Children's thoughts and ideas are respected and they are encouraged to reflect and express themselves during event activities and play experiences. Consequently, children feel valued and their self-esteem is very well promoted.

Staff carefully plan for each session and provide a wide variety of interesting activities which are appropriate to the children's individual ages and stages of development. There is a very good range of play equipment provided for the younger children and babies receive high levels of individual stimulation. Children become engrossed in, and enjoy exploring, the range of activities available. Children are highly motivated and keen to take part in different experiences. As a result, activities are stimulating,

challenging and engage children's interest. Older children have regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air and benefit from engaging in outdoor games.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children develop a positive attitude to others and form effective relationships with each other and the staff. They learn to play cooperatively and have respect for each others needs and feelings. Children are warmly welcomed into the setting which helps them feel settled and secure. Children benefit from having access to a good range of resources which encourages children to be aware of their own and other cultures. These positive images of the wider community enable children to develop self-esteem and a sense of their own worth. The setting has effective arrangements in place to care for children with special needs.

Children are very well-behaved and respond to the good role models set by staff. Children are encouraged to take turns and share resources and learn to take responsibility for their own actions. Children show care and consideration for others. For example, older children support younger and less able ones during activities so that all children are included in activities. Children benefit from having consistent boundaries and their self-esteem is well promoted through regular praise and encouragement.

Staff foster positive relationships and develop effective partnership with parents and carers which contributes significantly to the children's well-being. They provide a warm, welcoming environment and share verbal information with parents on a daily basis. Children settle well because staff work closely with parents to ensure that the child's individual needs are met and staff have the relevant information to promote children's learning and care. Parents receive useful written information about the programme and the activities that their child will be involved in. This enables them to share more meaningfully in their child's experience.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by enthusiastic and committed staff who have high regard for children's well-being. The management team ensures that children's care is enhanced by the staff's understanding of the setting's broad range of policies and procedures to protect children and promote their welfare. They have developed strong aims and values for the provision and have a clear vision for improving children's care. Staff are deployed effectively within the setting so that there is a good balance of indoor and outdoor activities which extend the play and learning opportunities for children. Staff effectively organise time to allow the children to be cared for in smaller and mixed age groups which ensures that they receive suitable levels of care appropriate to their developmental stages. Babies receive high levels of individual stimulation. The good ratios of staff to children ensure that children receive sensitive support which promotes their sense of belonging and self-worth.

Effective systems are in place for managing staff, such as daily staff meetings, induction and appraisal. These ensure that the staff within each team have a consistent approach and that the quality of care given to children is enhanced and their needs are well met. The management carry out some regular evaluation of the provision over the duration of the programme, however, further methodical review and refinement of the monitoring system will enhance continuity and consistency across teams and particularly at their transition points. To support this the event leaders are currently committed to further developing the written documentation, which underpins the successful management of the provision, so that it can be shared more fully by all. This is in order to further facilitate the understanding of how the setting runs, how the resources are used to meet the needs of the children, inform self-evaluation and the identification of areas for development. Individual staff skills are well recognised within the teams, resulting in confident staff who are proactive in ensuring an inclusive environment where every child matters.

Overall the setting meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure that the accident book, behaviour management policy, equal opportunities policy and staff records all contain relevant information and are in line with requirements as outlined in the National Standards. They were also asked to improve communication systems in the chalets.

Since the last inspection the accident book records all required detail such as dates and signatures; the equal opportunities policy is consistent with current legislation and guidance; the behaviour management policy reflects all good practice procedures; staff records contain full details and all chalets have radio access to key personnel. Policies, procedures and documentation have now been updated and include clear information to ensure staff and parents are fully informed and acknowledge the appropriate action which would be taken to ensure that the safety and welfare of children is maintained.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
--

## WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

### The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- further develop the written documentation, which underpins the efficient and safe management of the provision, so that it can be shared by all. This is in order to further facilitate the understanding of how the setting runs, how the resources are used to meet the needs of the children, inform self-evaluation and the identification of areas for development.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)