



## **Crook Log Leisure Centre**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY282285
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Crook Log Leisure Centre, Bexleyheath provides creche facilities for children up to five years and a holiday play scheme called Camp Adventure for children aged five to eight years. Children up to the age of 11 years also attend.

The purpose built creche room is registered for a maximum of 20 children at any one time. The creche is open Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00 all year round except for Christmas Day. All creche staff are qualified to work with children.

Camp Adventure operates from the main sports hall, function room and aerobics

studio and also has use of the swimming pool and toilets. It is registered for up to 32 children aged from five years to under eight years and is open from 08:00 until 17:00 Monday to Friday during school holidays. The holiday scheme have a mixture of staff with sports, childcare and teaching experience and qualifications and work on a ratio of one member of staff to eight children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean well maintained environment. Staff working in both the creche and holiday play scheme have generally satisfactory procedures in place to promote children's health and hygiene and to protect them from the spread of infection, for example children are encouraged to wash their hands after going to the toilet and there are effective nappy changing facilities in the creche. Children who are sick or unwell are not allowed to attend. Parents are required to collect children who become unwell during the session. However, parents of children attending Camp Adventure are only informed about this verbally. The lack of a written policy does not ensure that all parents are aware of the policy, thus compromising children's health. Although duty managers and all full time recreational staff have attended first aid training, only one creche worker who is part time, holds a current first aid qualification. This has an impact on creche staff's ability to care for children appropriately in the event of an accident or emergency occurring. Detailed registration forms provides staff with information about children's health problems, allergies and medication such as asthma inhalers. Leisure Centre staff do not administer medication to children.

Children attending the holiday playscheme take part in a wide range of sporting activities such as swimming, cricket, football, hockey, trampolining, basket ball and gymnastics which help to keep them healthy and promote their physical skills. In the creche babies have sufficient space to crawl around in and suitable furniture to pull them selves up on. Older children enjoy physical play on bikes and equipment in the outside play area. Children have access to a good range of resources such as construction, puzzles, role play resources and a roller coaster bead table which help to promote their fine motor skills.

Children attending the holiday playscheme can have breakfast from a healthy menu and choose between taking a packed lunch or ordering a meal from the canteen. Although the menu contains a choice of healthy options such as jacket potatoes and sandwiches with different fillings and side salad, the health of all children is not promoted as many parents/children choose the more unhealthier options of chicken nuggets, sausages or burger and chips. Afternoon tea is also now available if parents wish their children to have it and consists of a relatively healthy menu of fresh fruit, yogurt/ flap jacks and milkshakes. Regular drinks are provided for children through out the day to ensure they do not become dehydrated. Parents using the creche facilities supply drinks and snacks for children which have to be clearly labelled to ensure they are given to the right child. Detailed registration forms ensure that staff are aware of children's allergies and special dietary requirements. This information

helps staff to ensure that children are not given the wrong drink or snack by mistake.

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

The provision is good.

Good and effective safety procedures ensure that children attending the creche and holiday playscheme are kept safe and protected from harm. Regular risk assessments carried out by an appointed health and safety officer along with regular checks of the premises and equipment by staff before children arrive ensure that risks are minimised. There are effective procedures in place for the safe arrival and collection of children with parents having to sign children in and out. Staff at the holiday playscheme have to be notified in advance if anyone else is collecting a child. A policy for lost and uncollected children ensures that staff are aware of appropriate procedures to follow. Appropriate staffing ratios and good supervision ensures that children are kept safe. For example during swimming activities a ratio of one play leader to four children is maintained and children who can not swim are required to stay in the shallow end of the teaching pool. Qualified life guards are on duty at all times. All necessary safety precautions are in place in the creche room, for example a safety gate prevents children's access to the kitchen and a fire blanket and socket covers are in place to protect children. A high door handle prevents children from leaving the room unsupervised. Equipment furniture and play resources are in good condition and meet the needs of the children attending.

Children are well protected through the vetting of all leisure centre staff and staff's sound knowledge and understanding of child protection. A comprehensive child protection policy is given to all staff who have to attend Child Protection and Leisure Watch Training as part of their induction. Managers and play leaders are clear about their role and responsibility for recognising, recording and reporting concerns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time spent at Camp Adventure and happily take part in a wide range of interesting and enjoyable activities which have been planned to take place over the next six weeks. The plan of activities includes theme days and special events with visits from a football and hockey coach, the Creepy Crawly Show, the Still Life Owl Show, Bexley Deaf Centre and a circus; a wide range of sporting activities such as swimming, cricket, football, basketball, table tennis, trampolining and gymnastics. Children can also take part in non sporting activities such as parachute games, team games, bouncy castle and a good variety of art and craft activities such as kite making, jewellery making, origami, clay modelling free painting, mask making and treasure boxes. However, there is nowhere for younger children to sit and relax comfortably away from the busy activities if they are tired or do not wish to participate in organised activities. The lack of a quiet area does not only restrict children's choice but has an impact on children's health and behaviour if they become over tired and fractious

Children particularly enjoy using the well equipped swimming pool where they have great fun playing on the inflatable assault course and using the floats. Children who are less confident in the water have fun in the teaching pool where staff happily join in their play. Children who can not go swimming can choose what they want to do supported by a play leader.

During part of each session children are divided into under eights and over eights to ensure that activities and games are age appropriate and that all children can take part without feeling overwhelmed or frustrated. For example, during the afternoon the younger children take part in a table tennis game which is adapted to their ability and then play team games using the bat and ball for egg and spoon races. Children have great fun trying to balance the ball with lots of laughter and giggles. Staff interact well with the children and help the younger children to succeed with their games. After a while the groups swap activities so that the younger children can choose to play cricket or take part in a range of creative activities. Children have lots of fun free painting, decorating clay models and doing origami a new skill for lots of them. Children readily approach play leaders to ask for help when needed and to request more resources.

The creche provides a good range of toys and activities which support children's learning and development. The room is set up with a clearly defined area for younger babies with cushions, bouncy chairs and toys where babies can sleep and play safely and comfortably away from the older children. The well equipped home corner and dressing up rack provides children with good opportunities for role play. Children can build with various construction toys, sit and look at books or listen to stories in the comfortable book area, play with a range of table and floor toys and ride on bikes in the outside play area. Children benefit from good adult interaction from a team of caring staff members.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Facilities at the Leisure Centre are open to everyone from the local community regardless of race, culture, religion, gender or disability. The comprehensive equal opportunity policy promotes equal opportunity for all children so that they can play in a friendly, caring environment free from discrimination and bullying. Staff treat children with respect and encourage all children to take part in the full range of activities for example, girls are observed having great fun playing mixed cricket and boys enjoy making origami pictures. During large group times older children help younger children with activities.

The creche provides care for children under five years, for up to two hourly sessions for parents taking part in exercise classes and sports facilities at the centre. Children with special needs are welcomed into the creche and provided with one to one care if needed. Camp Adventure is open to all children between the ages of five and 11 years from the local and neighbouring communities and has an arrangement at some sessions to take children and their carers from Bexley Special Needs Access To Provision (SNAP). This enables children with learning difficulties and disabilities to

have the same access to the facilities and provide respite care for parents.

Children attending Camp Adventure respond well to praise and encouragement given by play leaders. Children are reminded of the club rules each morning at registration. As a result children are well behaved and play well together in small groups and during large group team games, sharing and taking turns. Babies and younger children in the creche enjoy lots of cuddles and distraction especially when first separating from parents. Children are learning to share and take turns playing with the toys and equipment.

Effective working relationships with parents contribute to children's care and well being. A Camp Adventure Information Pack is provided for parents containing details of times, dates, activities, booking condition, collection, medication, food arrangements, and also includes some short policy statements on child protection, equal opportunities and behaviour management. Parents complete registration forms for both provisions to ensure that staff are provided with up to date information about children. Parent notice boards in the creche room and outside the sports hall keep parents up to date about information about events, menus, policies and procedures. The current complaints procedure is not in line with the new guidance for investigating and recording complaints. However, as there have been no complaints regarding the creche or Camp Adventure this has little impact at the present time.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The Leisure Centre has rigorous recruitment procedures in place to protect children and keep them safe. All staff are vetted and attend induction training before working in the centre with children. Children in the creche benefit from being cared for by experienced and qualified staff who demonstrate a good understanding of the National Standards and the needs of young children. Creche staff work well together as a team to ensure that children can play in a stimulating, safe environment. The new manager of Camp Adventure is a qualified lifeguard, trampoline coach and first aider. Although she does not currently have a relevant qualification in childcare she is starting a Level 3 Playwork course in September. A team of 10 play leaders are rotated to work with the children providing suitable ratios to ensure children are kept safe and receive lots of support and attention. However, only one member of staff currently holds a Level 2 qualification in childcare with the other play leaders holding a range of sports related qualifications. Although the premises are well organised so that children can play safely and take part in a range of sports and art and craft activities there are no facilities where children can sit and relax. Children receive good adult support.

Both the creche and holiday play scheme have relevant and necessary documentation in place for the safe and effective management of the provision. These include a record of attendance, registration/child records forms, accident/medication records and policies and procedures.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the previous inspection, the holiday playscheme was set three actions. These were to ensure that a Level 3 manager is in place and that 50% of the staff hold a Level 2 qualification in childcare; to ensure that sufficient resources and activities are provided for children and that the younger children's needs are met during large group activities and to ensure that the arrangements for the care of children eight years and over do not adversely affect the care of children under eight years.

A permanent duty manager has been appointed in charge of the holiday club. She is starting a Level 3 qualification in Playwork from September. The course she was originally booked to go on in April 2006 was cancelled. She is a qualified lifeguard and trampoline coach and has completed child protection and first aid training. She works at the leisure centre full time and has put together a timetable of exciting and interesting planned activities for each week of the holiday for children to enjoy. These include a range of different sports events and activities, a good variety of art and craft activities and several visits from outside organisations such as Creepy Crawly Insects, The Still Life Owl Show and the Bexley Deaf Centre. There are planned times of the day when children are divided into two groups of under eight's and over eight's. This ensures that activities are age appropriate and that all children are able to take part if they wish.

### **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 complaint 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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure that there are a minimum of 50% qualified staff working with children under eight years at all times

- provide a quiet and comfortable area where children can take part in quiet activities, relax or rest during the day when required
- devise a complaint procedure/log in line with the new guidance which parents are familiar with
- ensure that a qualified first aider trained in first aid for babies and young children is working in the creche at all times
- ensure that the Parent Information Pack contains a written policy on the exclusion of sick/unwell children

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