



## **Link Centre Creche**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	511175
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 July 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Link Centre Creche
<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.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Link Centre Crèche and Hi5 Holiday Camp has been registered for over 10 years. It operates from premises within the Link Centre, in West Swindon, and serves customers using the leisure centre facilities.

The crèche is registered to care for up to 12 children aged zero to five years old. It is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.15 to 12.00 and on Tuesday from 10.45 to 12.15. Children may attend for up to two hours. The holiday camp is registered to care for 48 children from four to eight years with no more than 12 of these being under five years. There are currently 70 children on roll. Four staff care

for the children including a manager who has a childcare qualification and three part-time assistants. Two members of staff are currently on training programmes. Two full-time members of staff work with the holiday camp children, and eight part-time staff, of whom appropriate numbers have relevant qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in warm, clean premises. They are encouraged to practise suitable hand washing routines and staff practise appropriate hygiene routines themselves. However, staff do not ensure children wash their hands before eating snack and this puts them at risk from cross infection. Children benefit from staff's up to date knowledge of first aid and their knowledge of the administrative procedures to follow if children have an accident or require medication. This protects the children's health. The sickness policy is formally shared with parents and staff act appropriately when children become ill whilst in their care. Children are not, therefore, exposed to unnecessary illness.

Children develop their awareness of healthy eating as they have the opportunity to purchase healthy snacks from the tuck shop, and only fruit is available to buy. Staff gain information from parents regarding children's dietary needs and these are recorded and shared with staff. Children have access to drinking water at all times and, therefore, have enough fluids throughout the day. Children's dietary needs are mainly successfully met. Children are able to bring their own lunches to the club but parents are not informed that there is no suitable storage available for these, and this puts the children's health at risk. Hot dinners are available to buy and staff are currently working on improving the nutritional content of these.

Children have access to lots of physical activity daily. They are able to play a variety of sports, including, football, badminton, basketball, table tennis, trampoline sessions, and running games. They also have access to swimming activities and bouncy castles. They do not have the use of an outdoor area, but trips out are organised, for example, visits to Lydiard park and the Cotswold wildlife park and visits to the fire station. These activities support children's physical skills well and encourage a positive attitude towards an active lifestyle.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in suitably organised premises, where they have a separate hall for use. They have plenty of space for playing games, engaging in gym and sports games, and areas to sit and engage in quiet activities.

Children have access to a suitable range of equipment including various sports equipment and art and craft resources. They are encouraged to make decisions regarding their play and regularly request activities from the staff, which they respond

to. This enables the children to develop confidence and independence.

Children are cared for in safe premises. They benefit from the range of safety measures the staff implement daily to promote their safety and to prevent accidents. For example, toilets are checked for members of the public prior to the children using them, entry to the building is monitored and sockets are covered. Children, therefore, move around the hall with confidence and play in safety. Risks assessments are undertaken for specific activities, including trips out, swimming and these help promote the children's safety when out. Children are encouraged to practise the fire evacuation procedure, however, this is not on display and compromises children, staff and visitors' safety in the event of a fire. The procedure for adults collecting children does not clearly specify the names of adults authorised to collect them. This puts their welfare at risk.

The groups child protection duties are not formally shared with parents and existing injuries are not recorded. This does not actively promote the children's well-being. Staff have a sound knowledge of child protection issues and the procedures to follow in the event of concerns. This helps promote their welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the group. They develop good relationships with others and seek out their friends to play with, for example, gymnastics, table tennis, cards and colouring. Children form good relationships with staff and readily approach them to request activities, for example table tennis, which they quickly respond to. Staff show great interest in the children and interact well with them. This helps to develop their sound levels of self-confidence in the group. Children develop respect for others and help those younger than themselves. Hence, all children play well together, for example, when engaging in gymnastics, parachute games and football. Children are proud of their club and are keen to share their positive experiences with others, being keen to share their favourite activities, especially the trampoline sessions.

Staff organise a good range of activities for the children that engage their interests and enable them to be fully involved. They enjoy trampoline sessions, swimming, ice skating, badminton, basketball, table tennis and football. They also have access to art and craft activities and trips out in the local environment.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from staff who respect their individuality and meet their needs appropriately. They are able to explore their local environment, with planned trips to local parks and wildlife centres. Children have access to some resources that help them develop respect for the lives of others, including books. Staff support children with learning disabilities into the group appropriately, through liaising with parents

and gaining funding where necessary for one to one support. However, there is no clear policy in place for the inclusion of such children.

Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour and contribute their ideas on 'rules' in the group. They adhere to the rules and show respect for others and for the staff. Staff are a good role model to the children and treat one another and the children with respect. Children, therefore, learn right from wrong and their behaviour is good. They are well engaged in activities and do not, therefore, become bored or frustrated.

Children benefit from the suitable partnership with parents as their care needs are respected and catered for. Parents receive limited information regarding the service offered to them and the activities their children will be involved in. They do not have access to the groups policies and there is no information available regarding, for example storage of lunches, support for children with learning difficulties, the club's child protection duties, procedures for trips and the authorised collection of children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for suitable and appropriately qualified staff. Staff maintain the required ratios at all times and this means the children receive suitable adult support as they spend time playing and interacting with them and ensuring they are fully occupied. The register is generally accurate and shows when children are present and in the care of the staff. Recruitment procedures ensure all adults working with children are suitable to do so.

Most policies and procedures are in place and implemented in a way which promotes the children's welfare and care. However, there is no specific policy for inclusion of children with learning disabilities and the missing child policy does not include a procedure for the non-collection of children. All necessary consents are gained from parents regarding routines and activities and this promotes the children's well-being suitably and ensures they are cared for in line with parents' wishes. Most required documentation is kept on the premises and is available for inspection.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting agreed to ensure that policy and procedures manual is amended to take account of revised procedures and to make available a current copy of the Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Some policies and procedures reflect current practice, however the policy for the inclusion of children with special needs and non-collection of children have not yet been updated. A copy of the Area Child Protection Committee procedures is available with current information regarding the correct department to contact in the event of child protection concerns.

## **Complaints 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. There have been no complaints since April 2004.

## **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 information is readily available and on display to parents regarding all aspects of the group, including policies, procedures and activities available to the children
- ensure children are encouraged to practise good hand washing routines at all times before eating and that information regarding the safe storage of lunches is available to parents
- ensure the fire evacuation plan is displayed and that the names of adults authorised to collect children are clearly specified
- ensure all policies and procedures are amended to include special educational needs inclusion and non-collection of children

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