



Devizes Leisure Centre Creche, Playscheme And Fun Clubs

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	146026
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Registered person	Kennet District Council
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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?

Devizes Leisure Centre Play Scheme and Fun Club opened in 1993. It operates from Devizes Leisure Centre and serves the local community. A crèche for under five year olds operates throughout the year. A holiday play scheme runs during school holidays for three to thirteen year olds, offering a variety of sporting and other activities. Children under five years are mainly cared for in a separate room. The older children spend most of the day in the large sports hall but also have access to secure outdoor play. All children use the swimming pool and other sports facilities within the centre.

The provision is registered for no more than 48 children from birth to under eight

years at any one time, of whom no more than 16 may be under five years. Children attend a variety of sessions. There are currently 236 children on roll, of whom 107 are under eight years.

The holiday play scheme opens Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 16:00 during school holidays. Children aged three and four years are requested to arrive at 09.30 and finish at 12:00, these sessions are only available on certain days. The crèche is open from 09.00 to 12.30 all year round.

Seven full-time staff work with children in the holiday play scheme, two of whom are teachers and two are working towards relevant qualifications; four part time staff work with children in the crèche, three are working towards early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean environment and staff usually follow procedures that help to reduce the risk of cross-infection and illness. For example, nappies are changed hygienically and children who are unwell cannot be cared for. Staff will not administer medication to young children attending the crèche. For older children who require medication, such as inhalers, there are clear written procedures stating that medication should be held by staff and only administered by named individuals. However, not all staff are aware of these procedures and as a result some children have kept their own medication with them which could have been difficult to find in an emergency.

Children bring their own lunch, snacks and drinks or they may choose to buy from a range of healthy products available from the vending machines. There are also drinking water fountains available which staff encourage children to use, especially after vigorous play, which is beneficial to their health.

Children have very good opportunities to take part in physical play. Many activities are sports based and specialist sport or dance coaches are used to help children develop their skills, often in areas new to them such as Tae Kwon Do or archery. They often play fun group games and these enjoyable energetic activities encourage children to keep fit and adopt an active healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a bright, well maintained and generally safe environment, where staff usually follow effective procedures to keep children safe. Qualified and experienced staff are used for all specialist sporting activities, such as archery and martial arts, so that safety guidelines are followed. An accurate register of children's

attendance is kept so that staff know who is present at any time during the day. Children are only allowed to leave with a previously agreed adult. Staff are informed about emergency evacuation procedures but these are not practised with the children, which could delay the time taken to safely leave the building.

Children are generally well supervised, for example, during swimming sessions, there are adequate numbers of staff in the water with the children and qualified poolside life guards. There are safe written procedures for children to visit the toilet. However, these are not followed consistently by staff and as a result, children over four years, are on occasions, using public access toilets that have not been checked beforehand for other users. In addition, there are fire exit doors from the toilets that could be opened by children, allowing them to leave the building. Staff are aware of the correct procedures but are not sufficiently monitored by the manager to ensure that they are always followed. Children use good quality equipment during the holiday club and younger children are able to choose from an adequate range of good quality toys in the crèche room. However, there are no tables or chairs for these children, for example, for doing craft activities.

Staff are aware of child protection issues and the agreed procedures to be followed if there were concerns. Parents are made aware of these. The staff would act in the children's best interests if they had concerns for a child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Most children really enjoy the time they spend at the holiday play scheme. All children are encouraged to join in and parents are informed of any children that do not settle.

Children are grouped appropriately according to their age and sufficient qualified staff work with each group. Staff plan and provide a wide range of interesting activities both sports based and others such as craft, dance or themed topics, for example, Romans in Wiltshire or fossils. Children talk enthusiastically about the activities they have taken part in. Staff develop good relationships with the children, who in turn play co-operatively. Staff are skilled at encouraging children to try new experiences and learn new skills and this develops their confidence and self esteem.

The younger children, under five years, are in a separate area. During the holidays, staff often plan themed activities, for example, children listen attentively to The Rainbow Fish story before making their own fish to play a fishing game. Staff engage children well, they are lively and caring and children settle very quickly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcome to attend the crèche or holiday play scheme. Extra staff are available for children with additional or special needs and these children are well

supported to help them achieve as much as they can. The centre liaises closely with parents to ensure that all children's individual needs can be met. Parents receive adequate information about the care provided and the activities on offer and their written comments are sought at the end of the scheme. They are not however informed about the complaints procedure.

Children are polite and well behaved and co-operate well with staff and each other. Staff remind children each day of the group rules and have high expectations for their behaviour. Staff are good role models, they are interested in what children say and sensitive to their feelings. Older children have limited opportunities to make independent choices about what they do during the day, for example, there are no alternative activities available for those not wishing to join in with sporting activities or group games. However, children are never forced to participate, they may sit out and watch or join the younger children if they are not swimming.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are grouped appropriately according to their age and ability and staff are generally well deployed to meet their needs, however, lack of supervision when visiting the toilets, puts children at risk. There are sufficient numbers of suitably qualified and soon to qualify staff to meet regulatory requirements. There are suitable induction arrangements but staff are not monitored closely enough to ensure agreed procedures are being consistently followed. Interesting activities are well organised so that children enjoy their time at the provision.

All of the regulatory documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place but sometimes lacks sufficient detail, as the accident book has not always been signed by parents and the current registration certificate is not displayed as required.

The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was asked to ensure there are effective procedures in place for checking staff. There are now very robust procedures in place to ensure staff have undergone all the relevant checks before working with children, which protects their welfare.

They were also asked to develop and implement action plans showing how the at least half the childcare staff will obtain a level 2 qualification, and the supervisors a level 3. In the crèche, there are two joint supervisors, one has almost completed a level 3 and the other is working towards a level 2, so they are working towards their target of trained staff. Two staff worked with the five to seven year old children, a qualified teacher was employed to supervise this group, thus meeting the requirement.

The provision was asked to maintain the required records for administering medication and to have a procedure in place for lost children. Both these are now in place, however, staff are not consistently following the medication procedure, which is detrimental to children's health.

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 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 children can safely use the toilets
- display the registration certificate
- regularly practise fire evacuation procedures with the children and ensure that electric sockets within children's reach are covered
- inform parents of the complaints procedure

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