



Hart Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	109674
Inspection date	04 July 2005
Inspector	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington
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Registered person	Hart District Council
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.

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?

Hart Leisure Centre crèche opened over 15 years ago. The crèche operates from a spacious hall on the ground floor of Hart Leisure Centre in Fleet. Children have supervised access to toilets in the changing rooms. Parents remain on the premises for morning sessions but may leave their children for a maximum of four hours at the afternoon sessions.

The crèche is registered to care for a maximum of 26 children under 5 years at any one time. They currently have 670 children on roll. Opening hours for the crèche are 09:15 to 15:30 Monday to Friday, all year round with the exception of bank holidays

and Christmas, however opening times may vary in school holidays.

Nine staff work with the children, of whom two have suitable child care qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children begin to learn the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines, they know, for example, to use a tissue for their runny nose and dispose of the tissue appropriately. Good procedures, such as, staff consistently cleaning tables with anti bacterial spray before and after snack/mealtimes sustains high levels of hygiene, helping to prevent the spread of infection.

Children enjoy a clean, spacious environment, which provides good opportunities for them to develop their physical abilities on low-level play equipment. Babies and toddlers have space to crawl, pull themselves upright, and explore safely. Older children have opportunities to climb, balance, slide and use push along toys developing their physical abilities.

Dietary needs are discussed with parents and clear records ensure that staff are aware of special dietary needs. Parents provide the food they want their child to eat ensuring a continuity of care. Regular drink times in addition to drinks the children may request ensures children do not become dehydrated.

Clear accident and medication recording ensures that information is shared with parents and contributes to the child's well being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised in the well-planned setting, which has reasonable safety and security precautions in place. Daily risk assessments contribute to the safety of the children in the play environment. Fire evacuations do not happen on a regular basis, this compromises the safety of the children and staff.

Children use a suitable range of good quality, age appropriate toys, and resources. The arrangement of the toys enables the children to access them safely whilst developing individual physical abilities. Children begin to learn about keeping themselves safe by gentle reminders to hold onto the climbing frame and pick items off the floor to prevent falls.

Some staff do not have a clear understanding of the developmental needs of very young children and are unable to see risks that can arise. This affects children's safety and puts pressure on more experienced staff to supervise the large play area.

The staff's sound awareness of the policies, procedures and the signs and symptoms

of abuse or neglect ensure that children's well being is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make positive relationships with staff, they talk about what they do at home, and staff know what activities individual children enjoy. The children are confident and happy in the environment, staff are interested in them and provides good physical care but some staff are not skilled and knowledgeable about the interaction required with younger children.

Children's development is encouraged through the wide variety of activities, which the crèche offers. Using construction toys develops imagination and dexterity as children fit the pieces together. Painting using a variety of bright colours and large sheets of paper encourages creative abilities. Story books and story telling develops language and imaginative skills, puzzles develop hand and eye coordination and physical play develops children confidence and physical strength. Children spend their time purposefully independently exploring the activities on offer.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children experience polite and well-mannered staff and consequently their behaviour is good. They are encouraged to use good manners by saying please and thank you, to take turns and show care and concern for others.

Appropriate care is offered because parents provide relevant information and staff provide a daily note detailing important information about the child's time in the crèche. This ensures positive relationships develop with parents and children's welfare is safeguarded.

Equal opportunities are promoted well by the staffs understanding of the children's needs to access play experiences that present positive images. Children have access to dolls, pushchairs, cars and books that all present positive images of culture and gender.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a high staff; child ratio ensuring that there are always sufficient adults to provide care in a fun and caring environment. However, insufficient qualified and experienced staff are employed. Some staff are not aware of the developmental needs of very young children and opportunities to obtain training are limited.

Staff are confident and competent at explaining the policies and procedures of the setting due to the induction they receive when they join the crèche. This ensures they

understand the role they are undertaking in the care of the children and the safe running of the crèche.

Documentation relating to the efficient and safe management of the provision is generally well maintained and easily accessed. Information is shared with parents and positive relationships develop. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 at least 50% of the staff on duty have suitable child care qualifications
- regularly undertake fire evacuations and keep a record of the event to inform risk assessment
- improve the staff's knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under 3, for example through the use of the Birth to Three framework and relevant training opportunities

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