



## Ponteland Toddleduck Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	401657
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 June 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Leisure Connection Ltd.
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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?

Ponteland Toddleduck Crèche was registered in March 2001. It is situated in a purpose-built, ground floor playroom based within Ponteland Leisure Centre, Ponteland, Northumberland. The outdoor play area is not currently used.

The crèche is open, Monday to Thursday from 09.30 to 12.30, on Friday from 09.00 to 12.00 and on Saturday from 09.30 to 12.30. It does not operate at Christmas, New Year and on Bank Holidays. The crèche offers child care for Leisure Centre users and the local and wider community. It is registered to provide care for 12 children aged from birth to under five years. There are currently 82 children on the register,

who attend part time on various days.

The crèche is managed by Leisure Connection Ltd. There are four permanent members of staff. The person in charge holds a Level 3 qualification in childcare and the remaining staff are all working towards a Level 3 qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and hygienic environment. They happily wash their hands when they are encouraged and reminded by the staff, older and pre-school children manage this task independently. As some of the children are fairly young, the staff use simple explanations about why they need to wash their hands, after using the bathroom and before eating their snack.

Babies bottles and food are either stored in their own bags or labelled, so that they can not be mixed up. Babies are fed comfortably on the staff's knee and benefit from lots of eye contact and interaction. Children bring in their own snacks and drinks from home, therefore this ensures that they have the food that they enjoy. They sit together at snack time and clearly enjoy the social occasion, as they chat happily to the staff and each other. Children have drinks of water whenever they want. This ensures that their nutritional needs are met very well.

Although there is no outdoor play area, there are plenty of opportunities for children to use the floor space to develop their physical skills. For example, they manoeuvre around the train set or set up the chairs carefully and correctly to build a fire engine.

Relevant paperwork is completed if children have an accident or need medication. A first aid box is readily available and key staff hold suitable first aid certificates. Relevant policies are in place and available to parents regarding illness and exclusion procedures. This ensures that children's health needs are well met.

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

The provision is good.

The room is well set out so that children move around freely and safely. There is plenty of floor space for them to play with the small world toys, or to set up their chairs when they pretend to make a fire engine. There is a suitable area where children sit up safely at low level tables, for their snacks and group games, as well as a suitable area defined for babies. Children happily play with toys that are clean, bright and age appropriate.

The staff promote children's safety very well, as they are well deployed and vigilant. They are quick to spot any potential hazards, such as when children leave the table prematurely while eating their food. A staff member is always present in the baby area, which is also used effectively as a comfortable reading and story area.

Documentation also positively supports the safe practice, such as daily written safety checks, regular fire drills, nappy changing, feeding and sleeping charts. There is a good system for booking children in, which the person in charge oversees, so that correct adult-child ratios are maintained. The recording of children's attendance and collection is also good, so that staff are always aware of the numbers of children present.

Good information and procedures are in place regarding child protection. The person in charge is clear about her role and responsibility regarding child protection. This ensures that children's welfare is protected appropriately.

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

The provision is good.

Babies are well cared for, as a staff member always takes responsibility for their individual needs so that they are safe and secure. Older children enter the group happily, separate from their parents easily and are interested in what is on offer in the crèche. They seek out known staff and receive lots of natural, warm, facial and physical interaction when they arrive. Children chat, laugh and have lots of fun while in the crèche. They approach the toys and activities eagerly, thoroughly enjoy playing together, make up their own games and use their imaginations very well. Their activities and games are well supported by the staff. For example, the children line up their chairs, sit on them and pretend they are in a fire engine. Staff extend their role play well, as they encourage the children to use appropriate construction materials for the 'fireman's hoses'. They play together socially and seek out their friends to join in their games.

Staff extend children's learning through play very well. For example, they ask the children if they recognise colours, encourage them to count when they use construction materials, or when they watch a factual fire-fighters video. Children respond confidently and enjoy the challenges. They have very good relationships with the staff. They are happy, very settled and fully engrossed in their activities. Therefore children achieve well and thoroughly enjoy what they do.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's choices are acknowledged very well by the staff. They ask the children what they would like to do and support them well in their choices. They recognise when children are tired or hungry, for example, babies are put down to rest and sleep comfortably when they are ready. Children's emotional needs are also well met, for example, they hold onto their comfort items from home and when a toddler wakes up they are reassured warmly and offered a drink. Relevant documentation is completed so that staff are aware of children's individual needs.

Children's behaviour is good, they are fully occupied and socialise with each other very well. They benefit from caring, enthusiastic staff, who offer lots of positive praise.

Staff comment on what the children do well, which raises their self-esteem appropriately.

Parents are very pleased with the crèche and the care that their children receive. Some children have attended for a number of years. The staff have friendly relationships with the parents and carers, which helps to develop secure and trusting relationships for the children. There is some useful information in the information leaflet and on the display board for the parents and carers. However, the information on contacting Ofsted and the complaints procedure was out of date. Verbal information is always passed onto parents so that they are sufficiently informed of their child's day.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

A suitable recruitment and selection policy is in place. All staff are vetted via the Leisure Centre, before they are employed. This ensures that children are well protected. The person in charge holds a relevant child care qualification and has suitable experience. All of the other staff are currently in the process of completing Level 3 training in childcare. Relevant information is available on the Birth to three matters framework. Although none of the staff have carried out any Birth to three matters training, they have a positive attitude to personal development and increasing their knowledge in this area. Staff work well as a team and have general, informal meetings prior to a session starting.

The general routine is very child led. Although there is no particular planning in place, staff support and encourage children in their choice of activities and initiate group games which children enjoy, such as picture lotto. Although children use creative materials regularly, there is a limited range of safe, real, sensory materials and musical instruments available for the children.

Children benefit from lots of positive attention from the staff, which firmly supports their overall development, therefore children take an active part in the setting. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the group was required to; ensure that all records containing the children's information was securely stored; to ensure that suitable furniture was available; to ensure that the child protection procedure contained relevant contact details and details in the event of allegations being made against staff and to ensure that a telephone was accessible in the crèche.

The group has made good progress. All confidential records are locked away and furniture is suitable. The child protection procedures are comprehensive and the staff have a mobile phone and charger readily available within the crèche room.

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

There are no complaints to report. 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):

- obtain a copy of the Ofsted poster and display this for parents and update the complaints information
- develop the staff's knowledge on the Birth to three matters framework and consider implementing this in practice by using some safe, sensory and real materials in activities.

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)