



Saxon Sam's Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315862
Inspection date	28 July 2006
Inspector	Gyatri Rupal
Setting Address	Saxon Pool & Leisure Centre, Saxon Drive, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 8SU
Telephone number	01767 313190
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Registered person	Stevenage Leisure Ltd.
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Saxon Sam's crèche open in 2005. The crèche is run by Stevenage Leisure Limited. The crèche operates from a purpose-designed room in the Saxon Leisure centre in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. The crèche is open each weekday; Monday and Thursday from 09:30 to 18:00, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 09.30 to 14.00 whole year around expect for bank holidays and Christmas holidays. A maximum of 22 children may attend the crèche at any one time.

There are currently 200 children on roll, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. Children may attend up to two hour session within the opening period. The crèche

currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties. The crèche currently employs six permanent staff. Most of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. Additional support staff are drawn from the leisure centre employees.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from infection through well-managed daily hygiene routines, which are backed up with effective paperwork. For example, there is a clear sick child policy and good hygiene practice by staff as they ensure all areas are cleaned before sessions. Older children develop their independence as they wash their hands before snacks and after messy activities. Children are learning, under the staff's guidance, that they need to wash their hands to get rid of germs before eating their snacks. This minimises the risk of cross contamination when they have their snacks together. All of the required documents and procedures are in place to enable staff to act in the children's best interests if they need medical attention. Most of the staff hold a first-aid certificate so that they can treat minor accidents if the needs arises. Information is shared appropriately with parents to provide consistency in their health care.

Children's physical development is fostered well with regular play where children challenge their physical skills using the range of play equipment. Children have good opportunities to practise body control as they take part in a range of activities. For example, they move their body while singing nursery rhymes with actions, use small tools and manipulate materials. Children move with confidence using push along toys. Children cut, glue and paint using a variety of tools and techniques. Staff use the 'Birth to three matters' framework well to provide a range of stimulating physical play experiences for younger children. The room is well planned to ensure children can move freely and it provides a comfortable area for rest. Children are settled with the staff and receive close attention to ensure their emotional well-being.

Children are beginning to learn the benefit of a healthy diet through the staff's discussions and visual aids. The setting encourages parents to provide a healthy packed lunch for children and it provides healthy snacks and drinks during break time. Children's dietary requirements and parents' wishes are respected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety takes high priority in this well organised setting. The setting uses designated premises, which are purpose-designed. All the necessary safety measures are in place and the staff know what to do in an emergency. Access to the provision is monitored. Visitors sign in and doors are secured following the end of registration. These remain locked until children depart at the end of the session. The staff have completed manual handling training and operate the hoist system safely.

Vigorous risk assessments and frequent physical checks of the environment, activities and resources, ensure children's total well-being.

Children adhere to the settings rules to keep them safe. Children know not to run inside so that they do not fall and hurt themselves. Children learn how to protect themselves through interesting activities, which reinforce their understanding of safety. For example, they practise the fire drill regularly to learn about the dangers of fire and the need for emergency evacuation and they read books on safety issues.

Children's welfare is safe guarded as the required procedures and documents are in place to keep the children free from harm and ensure their welfare is promoted. For example, visitors are supervised at all times, parental consents are obtained to support the children's safety and the staff have a good understanding of child protection issues as most of the staff have attended the child protection training. There is a child protection policy but it needs updating, in line with Safe Guarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wonderful variety of exciting play and activities, which are child-led or planned and organised by the staff. The 'Birth to three matters' framework is incorporated in planning for the children under three years of age. Children receive adult guidance to give them extra support if needed but their independence is promoted as much as possible. The staff set them challenges, which involve a range of stimulating play to aid their development. For example, they speak confidently in a large or small group, follow simple instructions and feel settled without their parents or carers and able to try new experiences.

Children benefit from a range of activities, which develop their knowledge and skills. For example, they learn to recognise different colours through topic work and daily play as the staff talk about the colours of toys with which they are playing or the colour of the paint they are using for their painting. Children count in sequence as they count out the numbers of toys on their musical wheels or sing nursery rhymes. They use mathematical language when they build with different shapes, such as 'circle', 'square' and 'triangle'. Children create different patterns with paint and match and sequence pictures with games and puzzles.

Children represent their experiences and feelings through role-play. They go shopping to buy food, learn to use a stethoscope, as they become a doctor and feel very proud as they make a birthday card for their dad. Children express their ideas creatively using an extensive range of materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are able to feel welcome and comfortable because staff value and

respect their individuality. Children who have learning difficulties, have their requirements identified and met as there is a clear policy relating to this. Staff ensure that this is implemented, working with individual children and parents to make sure that all are included in the activities and daily routines. The staff are skilled in ensuring that all of the children are able to participate at a level appropriate to them and are offered activities and play opportunities which promotes children's development. Their work is valued and displayed in the setting. This helps them develop a sense of belonging, which contributes to their feeling of security and develops their self-esteem.

Children behaved well, most of the time. They learn good social skills and make positive relationships with the staff and their peers. They develop respect and are polite and considerate. They say 'please' and thank you'; this is due to the staff's excellent role-models and the staff's ability to manage behaviour effectively. For example, they offer lots of praise and encouragement and value children's achievements. The calm and sensitive staff encourage children to understand that their behaviour may have an impact on others. Children give hugs and say 'sorry' when they apologise for their unsociable behaviour. There is a behaviour statement on behaviour management but this does not include how any issue of bullying will be managed. Children benefit from a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the setting has established with the parents. The staff establishes professional, working relationships with parents based on mutual respect and effective communication, which helps to maintain a consistent approach. Parents are relaxed in the setting. Parents have the opportunity to exchange information about their children on a daily basis with the experienced and friendly staff. In addition, lots of information is displayed on the notice board. The parents are asked to complete a questionnaire to ensure that all the parents are able to take part in the care and learning of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced greatly by the good organisation. They benefit from thorough recruitment, vetting and induction procedures which ensure they are well protected and cared for by staff with knowledge and understanding of child development. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place to allow the smooth running of the setting and to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. A review of procedures is required as the setting has not received the October 2005 Addendum to the National Standards for under 8's day care and childminding; this has led to some policies not being fully updated. The setting also needs to review a system to keep staff's daily attendance records to ensure they are easily accessible for inspection.

Children enjoy a good range of exciting, planned activities, free choice and organisation of excellent resources which enables them to chose their play independently. The staff monitor the activities and review their practices to ensure

children are stimulated and challenged. The managers and her enthusiastic and dedicated staff work effectively as a team. They have developed a positive working relationship with parents and children. They are committed to promoting an inclusive environment in which every child matters. Overall, all of the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaint made by parents, which they can see on request.

The complaint record may contain complaint 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):

- ensure child protection procedure include contact and telephone number for the local police and social services
- ensure the written statement on behaviour management, includes bullying and how this will be managed.
- ensure there is a clear system for staff attendance on daily basis, showing hours of attendance.

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