



Greenbank Leisure Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	507767
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Inspector	Elaine Poulton
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Registered person	Greenbank Leisure Centre Creche
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?

Green Bank Leisure Centre Crèche is sited in a designated crèche room in the Green Bank Leisure Centre situated in the centre of Swadlincote. The crèche serves the local area.

The crèche is registered to care for 25 children aged under 5 years. All children attend various times and sessions. Parents are expected to stay on the premises and the crèche is offered to cover classes and activities running in the Centre.

The group opens 4 sessions a week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 09.15 until 13:00 all year round.

The setting employs 5 part time staff to work directly with the children. There are 2 staff who hold an appropriate early years qualification and 2 staff are currently working towards an appropriate qualification in childcare and education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene and are encouraged to use tissues to wipe their nose. They know where the bin is located to dispose of used tissues. Older children's independence is growing as they are encouraged to wash and wipe hands on paper towels especially after completing messy activities, such as sticking and gluing.

Children's good health is satisfactory promoted as most of the staff hold a current first aid certificate. The first aid box is easily accessible and suitably maintained. Accident records are completed appropriately and parents are duly informed.

Children's good health is suitably protected through the sick children's policy. The crèche medication policy is not to administer medication as parents remain on site at all times. The policy does not make it clear to staff or parents about administering prescribed medication. This means that staff are not able to take prompt action for example, if medication is needed for asthmatics in an emergency situation. This compromises children's health and safety.

Children can help themselves to their individual water bottles when they are thirsty. They are beginning to learn the names of different fruits and vegetables through planned creative activities. Children are offered a mid morning snack of a biscuit and a drink of squash. There are limited opportunities for children to choose or taste healthy options such as apples, raisins or banana. This means that whilst snacks are planned to take into consideration children's dietary requirements they include no healthy alternatives such as fruit or vegetables.

Children enjoy a broad range of activities which contribute to their physical health. They take part in music and movement sessions which help them develop growing control of their bodies. They use a variety of large toys and equipment, such as tricycles and wheeled toys to exercise and develop their muscles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe in the crèche as staff have a satisfactory awareness of health and safety. The premises are secure and children are closely supervised. The staff complete risk assessment to ensure hazards are minimised. Parent's sign their children in and out of the crèche. There is a visitors book to sign on arrival and departure. The emergency escape plan is clearly documented and health and safety policies are available to parents through the policies and procedures pack and on the parent's notice board.

Babies have their own sectioned off area to keep them safe from harm. Young children enjoy a secure environment which is set out differently each day by the staff. There is air conditioning in the crèche which is controlled manually. Should the room become too hot and stuffy staff can switch the cool air on.

Children have freedom of space to manoeuvre and move from one activity to another safely. Furniture and resources are accessible, appropriate for their purpose and support a range of activities which promote their all round development.

Children are suitably protected in the setting. The staff have a clear awareness of the child protection policy that is shared with parent's. Most staff have a sound knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures but not all are aware of the policy relating to allegations made against staff in the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Babies play with a satisfactory range of brightly coloured, stimulating, sensory toys. Older children play happily together and are involved in imaginary play, using the home corner and pretending to be cats and dogs. Children concentrate on cutting out, sticking and gluing. They have the opportunity to identify ants, bees and caterpillars and sound out the initial letter of each the creatures. Some children practice their writing skills on the wall mounted chalk board. All children enjoy exploration with paint and craft activities, which help them, represent their ideas. They are beginning to understand the concept of sharing and taking turns with resources and toys.

Children are building positive relationships with staff. The range of activities provided ensure that children make satisfactory progress. Activities and routines are suitable for individual children's development needs. The crèche has yearly plans and some themed topics. Some children have been regularly attending the crèche for 2 years and staff know them well. Although staff are aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework planning is not fully effective. There are no observations or assessments to help staff plan for the next steps of development or learning.

The mixed age group of young children is suitably organised. Staff support children's play and encourage older children to be sensitive to the needs of younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Most children enter the crèche confidently and settle quickly. They are beginning to build positive relationships with the staff and each other. They develop self-esteem as they make requests, choices and decisions about their play. Older children have regard for younger children during large group time and enjoy singing favourite action rhymes and songs together. British Sign Language is introduced to the children by one member of staff and is used well to compliment story time.

Children are generally well-behaved. They know some of the rules and are beginning to understand why rules are necessary. All children are included and supported to fully participate in the group. They are learning about different cultures and religions during planned activities, such as making cards to celebrate different festivals and events. There is a wide range of

resources, game and toys that reflect positive images of gender and disability and this in turn encourages children to learn more about their community and the world they live in.

Children's special needs are discussed with parents in detail. No children with educational special needs attend at this time but staff have a positive attitude to meeting these needs if required. Communication and information exchange takes place regularly with parents. Friendly relationships between staff and parents mean that information regarding children's care needs is shared and used effectively to meet children's needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is protected as the registered person has satisfactory recruitment procedures and ensures all staff complete appropriate checks. They have their welfare promoted as staff work well together and undergo a satisfactory vetting and induction programme. Staff are all happy to attend further training to ensure children's needs are met within the crèche.

There are good staff to child ratios which positively support children's care, learning and play. Staff are deployed suitably well giving children support in all areas of their play for example, sitting with children at activities to give encouragement and help and supporting babies and their care routines. This contributes to children's enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the crèche.

The space available is organised appropriately. The crèche room is set up by staff each day to provide for a wide variety of activities, including for example messy, imaginative, sensory and physical play.

There are satisfactory policies and procedures in place and made available to parents, and most of these work well in practice to promote children's welfare.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were 6 recommendations from the last inspection in 2003.

The 6 recommendations are as follows: To ensure children looked after, are between the ages of 0 and 5 years; the registers show satisfactory evidence of the dates of birth of all children attending the crèche and these children are all under 5 years of age.

To ensure that all child information is held confidentially; records containing confidential information are kept in a locked cabinet in the office to ensure children's welfare is suitably protected.

To ensure that there is a procedure for lost or uncollected children; there is a policy and procedure for lost or uncollected children displayed in the crèche to promote children's safety appropriately in the setting.

To provide a suitable range of toys and activities, in order to meet the developmental needs of the older children attending the crèche; there is a varied range of toys, resources and equipment to cover a wide age range. This ensures that all children's play and learning needs are promoted appropriately.

To provide a variety of snacks that are healthy and nutritious; this recommendation has not been met and therefore carried over to this report.

To provide an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met; the manager of the crèche regularly updates all the staffs files and this includes their qualifications and training information. This ensures staff are able to satisfactorily support children's development and learning in the crèche.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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):

- offer a variety of nutritious snacks for all children and promote healthy eating through a range of activities and discussions
- ensure all staff are aware of procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer, in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- improve outcomes for children from birth to three by using an approach in line with 'Birth to three matters'
- clarify the medication policy to ensure children's individual medical health needs are met.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk