



Bushey Grove Leisure Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	130497
Inspection date	31 August 2006
Inspector	Maura Pigram
Setting Address	Aldenham Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 2TD
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Registered person	Bushey Grove Leisure Centre
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Bushey Grove Leisure Centre opened as a Crèche and Playscheme in 2001, it is situated in Bushey close to Watford. The crèche room is on the ground floor of the leisure facility and self-contained with its own facilities. The playscheme is run from the two dance studios on the first floor and has use of the main hall. There is an outside play area for the playscheme to use. The provision supports children with special educational needs.

A maximum of 10 children may attend the crèche at any one time and a maximum of 32 children may attend the playscheme at any one time. The crèche is open all year

round 9am to 3pm except bank holidays, the playscheme runs during school holidays 8.30am to 5.30pm.

The crèche employs 4 members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The playscheme employs 18 members of staff. Of these, 5 hold appropriate early years qualifications and 2 are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is fostered satisfactorily. Toilets are clean and the required toilet requisites are in place therefore children can independently carry out their personal needs. Staff monitor the children's visits to the toilets to ensure that the children are safe at all times. Children routinely wash their hands before snack, lunch time, after art or craft activities and are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet. Some satisfactory measures are taken to prevent the spread of infection such as the wiping of tables with anti-bacterial spray. There is a sickness policy in place, although it does not include sufficient detail to inform staff and parents on the recommended exclusion time scale. This means that those who have been ill are unclear regarding their return to the play scheme and children may be exposed to infection.

Children's meals are mainly provided by their parents, water is available for the children. A café is also available offering a variety of meals such as pasta dishes and jacket potatoes which the staff collect for the children. Children learn about healthy eating as the staff give gentle reminders to eat up the 'good fun'. Children have their snacks at the table and enjoy chatting to their friends. However, staff sit separately from the children therefore the opportunities for developing this social occasion are potentially missed.

There are ample opportunities during the day for the children to enjoy indoor physical play. They visit the hall where they enjoy free play on the bouncy castle or they can choose to play badminton, table soccer, hockey or table tennis. Consequently, children have many opportunities to engage in physical exercise and therefore promote their large motor development. There are limited opportunities for the children to engage in organised or spontaneous play outdoors. This means that they do not gain from the benefits of outdoor play which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Indoor games are organised with the younger children joining in with the older age group which is separately led. This means that children are able to build friendships outside of their peer group. They are able to rest and relax during free play activities and at snack and lunch time when they sit at the tables to eat. After lunch children are encouraged to sit quietly whilst they listen to the staff providing instructions on the afternoon's planned art and craft session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is generally promoted through staff adhering to safety procedures and constant supervision. Staff check the premises each morning to ensure potential hazards are minimised. Risk assessments of the premises and some activities are carried out. Staff are reminded about health and safety procedures such as carrying out regular evacuation procedures during their induction programme. Consequently, children know what to do in an emergency.

When the children are playing in their designated rooms they are able to access the toilets independently and tell the staff when they are going. One of the team ensures the children are supervised and waits for them outside, this ensures the children's safety whilst maintaining their independence. Parents or carers collecting their children sign the register when they leave, this ensures the children's safety at collection time. Staff are conscientious in observing the doorways. However, the access to the rooms where the children play are not secure. This means that children's safety may be compromised.

Children are reminded about safety issues which relate to the rules of the play scheme at the beginning of the scheme. They are reminded how to use the sports equipment and the art and craft materials safely. Children generally behave very well which helps to promote safety. There is no system for the staff or visitors to record when they are present. This has implications for child protection issues, although staff are aware of the signs of possible abuse and of the procedures to follow. They receive information on this during their induction training. There is a child protection policy in place which contains relevant contact details and information on who to contact if they were concerned about another member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

All children have their individual needs met and are developing a satisfactory range of knowledge and skills because the setting plan and provide activities and play opportunities that help children achieve in all these areas. The day follows a consistent routine which enables children to settle and feel confident because they know what will happen next. The routine includes a balance between sessions, of free play so they choose from the activities on offer, and adult-initiated activities, interspersed with snacks and lunch. The children are very involved in their chosen activities and enthusiastically take part in the available planned and spontaneous events. A good range of indoor activities are planned for the playscheme including team games, sponge painting and picnics. However, no other outdoor activities are planned. This means that the suitable outdoor play areas are not used to their full potential resulting in missed opportunities for children to use their imagination in initiating their own play and hence benefit from the available outdoor environment.

Children enjoy their free play opportunities in the hall and relish in organising their own games inviting members of staff to join them, for example, a small group organised a badminton game and another organised taking turns at a table soccer game. Consequently, children are taking responsibility for their own play, they are developing friendships and learning the skills of negotiation and playing together

harmoniously.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging because the provision welcomes children from all backgrounds. Boys and girls are encouraged to take part in all activities offered and there are some resources to reflect the wider society. Older and younger children have the opportunity to develop friendships with each other through the participation in large group games. Here, they are encouraged to be kind and helpful to each other therefore they feel valued and develop self respect for others. Social skills are developed during team games but the organisation of meal times means that the opportunities to develop good manners and skills such as taking turns in conversation during this time are potentially missed.

The children behave well during free play sessions because they know what is expected of them. Expectations are explained at the beginning of sessions and gentle reminders are given throughout the day. A behaviour policy is in place which is discussed during the induction sessions. Adults are committed to inclusion and a key worker system is in place to ensure any children who require one to one attention are effectively supported. This enables any children with educational needs to be independent and take a full and active part in the setting.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactorily developed. Parents and carers are asked to provide initial information about their child through the registration process. This forms the basis of meeting children's individual needs. Publicity leaflets are readily available and notices of the playscheme are displayed on the foyer notice board. They receive verbal information regarding the child's day as they collect their child. This means that there is a continuation of meeting the child's needs between parents and the team at the play scheme. There is a system in place to record any complaints which complies with the requirements of the national standards.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The crèche was not operating on the day of inspection. The organisation of the playscheme means that children's needs are adequately met. Planning for the playscheme is carried out by the manager of the crèche, this enables children to be quickly involved in the indoor activities on offer. Some of the friendly and approachable staff operating the scheme are long term and some work within the Leisure Centre in other suitable roles such as gymnastics instructors. The staff share thoughts and ideas and work well as a team interacting positively with the children. Consequently, children receive appropriate adult attention and support in the activities provided.

Policies and procedures protect children and are adequately implemented to promote all the outcomes for children and most of these are in place. The management and

organisation of the setting are pro-active in ensuring that the policies and procedures are up to date. For example, a hand book containing these is in the process of development and staff have access to this. They also receive valid information throughout their induction programme. This means that children are being cared for by staff who are given information on the procedures to follow whilst the children are attending the playscheme. There is a sound recruitment and vetting procedure in place and all staff have obtained Criminal Record Bureau Checks. Children's records are confidentiality maintained. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to update the medications policy. This is now in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the 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):

- review planning and provision of activities and play opportunities which allow children to use their imagination outdoors and in which they have as much choice as possible
- ensure the illness policy contains details about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious
- review safety relating to security of the rooms used by the children and devise a system for recording staff and visitors to these areas
- review the organisation of meal times so that adults can interact with the

children thus creating an environment that encourages good behaviour

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