



William Penn Leisure Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector	Gail Groves
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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?

William Penn Leisure Centre Crèche has been operating since 1997 but was newly registered in 2006 when its management was taken over by Hertsmere Leisure. It operates from one room in William Penn Leisure Centre which is situated in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. A maximum of 12 children may attend at any one time. The crèche is open all year round from 09:30 to 13:30 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 09:30 to 12:00 on Tuesday.

There are currently 76 children from three months to three years on roll. Most children come from the local area and all of them are the children of people who use

the leisure centre facilities.

The crèche employs three staff. All of the staff, including the supervisor, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from infection and are well taken care of if they have an accident or become ill because practitioners follow many appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines, policies and procedures. For example, staff ensure that toys are cleaned regularly and complete a daily, weekly and monthly cleaning schedule to ensure that the environment is clean and hygienically maintained. Staff use the nappy changing station in the female public toilets to change nappies. They wipe the changing area before and after use but at present they are not using anti-bacterial wipes because these have run out. Consequently, children are not fully protected from cross-infection. Children learn to understand the simple, good health and hygiene practice of washing their hands after using the toilet but are not required to clean their hands before eating their snack. As a result they are at risk of infection.

Children are appropriately nourished. Parents provide their own snack and a drink for children attending the crèche and staff also ensure that children have access to water if they are thirsty. Information about their health and dietary needs is sought from parents at registration and staff ensure that any needs are met. For example, they give babies a bottle if this is required during their stay. Children rest and sleep according to their needs. Babies are encouraged to have a nap if they are tired and staff ensure that they know the routine they need to follow to prepare the baby for sleep. For example, following parental discussions, a baby is put into her buggy which is then covered with a sheet and she is rocked back and forth until she falls asleep. This ensures continuity with practices at home and enables babies to settle quickly and without distress.

Children do not have access to an outside play area but have opportunities to take part in some physical activity within the crèche. For example, older children play with bats, balls and hoops, use rocker toys and crawl and slide over large foam shapes. Babies roll, kick and crawl on the large foam mats and roll and throw balls and foam shapes. Children are therefore developing some aspects of their large motor skills and coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor environment in which the risks to their safety have been minimised. For example, regular emergency evacuation drills are carried out and recorded, the door to the crèche is kept locked and access to the room is closely monitored by staff in order that children cannot

leave it unsupervised. Staff complete daily check sheets each morning to ensure that equipment and areas used by the children are safe. Children use suitable equipment which is age appropriate and mostly meets their needs. However, there are insufficient numbers of child sized chairs and tables to allow flexible arrangements for groups of children to play and eat together. Older children have to sit down on the floor to eat their snack and some activities, such drawing or playing with play dough, cannot be offered at the same time as there is only one table. Consequently, the play experiences available for children within sessions are limited.

Children are helped to learn to keep themselves safe as occasions arise within their environment. For example, they learn that they should not run around when there are babies sitting on the floor in case they fall on them and that they should hold their cup of water with both hands so that they do not spill it. Children are safeguarded because staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. They understand the importance of keeping detailed records of any concerns and have the relevant contact details to hand should these need to be reported. All staff are vetted and have the relevant experience, knowledge and skills to keep children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle and become happy in the setting and confidently make decisions, explore and investigate. For example, they access resources and activities independently and move around the room deciding what they would like to do. They then quickly become involved and interested in their play. They take part in a range of planned activities and spontaneous events, which help to support some areas of their development and learning. However, there are limited resources available to help to develop children's creative skills, such as painting, gluing and drawing and their imaginative play is hampered by a lack of dressing up and home corner resources. Activities to extend climbing skills for older children and walking skills for babies and toddlers are also poorly resourced. As a result, the opportunities to reinforce these areas of children's development through spontaneous play are restricted.

Children respond to adults who are interested in what they do and say and are therefore developing and extending their communication and social skills. For example, babies interact readily with staff both through facial expression and noise. Staff carefully extend and reinforce this with their own facial expressions and tone of voice and encourage children's developing speech and language by talking to them at all times. Babies' and children's emotional development is supported by staff who are careful to help them to feel comfortable and at home in the setting so that they can join in activities confidently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are valued and included and have their individual needs met by staff who work in partnership with parents and carers. They regularly share information with parents about children's welfare at the end of the session and discuss any issues which might cause concern, such as crying or not settling. A very well laid out and informative leaflet is available for parents, which clearly explains how the crèche operates. It contains extracts from some of the policies, such as health and safety, behaviour management and child protection and therefore parents have a very good understanding of what they can expect from the provision. Parents are also made aware of how they can raise any issues causing them concern and the complaints procedure ensures that these can be dealt with appropriately and promptly. Written comments from a parent praising the caring attitude of the staff have recently been received.

Staff help children to feel a sense of belonging by always welcoming them by name when they arrive. They give them opportunities to make choices and decisions, such as choosing what they wish to play with or when they would like to eat their snack and as a result, they quickly become confident and happy in the setting. Children's colouring is displayed on the notice board and staff praise and value their efforts and achievements so that they develop self-esteem. They learn to respond to appropriate expectations for their behaviour and staff encourage them to share and take turns to help them to develop an awareness of their own needs whilst also learning to respect the needs of others. Children are encouraged to work harmoniously with others to develop their social skills. For example, an older child is encouraged to roll a ball to a baby and to interact with her. Children have access to limited resources which help them to value diversity. As a result, their awareness of diversity and their ability to understand the positive differences between people is not being reinforced.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Recruitment and vetting procedures contribute to children being protected and cared for by staff with a good knowledge and understanding of child development. For example, all staff working with children hold appropriate early years qualifications at Level 3. They have a clear sense of purpose and a commitment to improvement and there are plans to move the crèche to its own room where integral child sized toilets will improve the care and facilities for children. The crèche's policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's care, learning and play and all of the necessary documentation for the safe and efficient management of the provision is in place. Record keeping systems are used appropriately to meet children's needs.

The adult to child ratio supports children's care, learning and play. Staff maintain the correct ratio if someone has to leave the room, for example, to take a child to the toilet, by calling in a member of staff from the leisure centre to cover their absence. Staff work well together as a team and their effective use of time and space contributes to children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting.

Overall, 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 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):

- review the hygiene procedures used at snack time and when changing nappies
- ensure there are sufficient numbers of child sized chairs and tables to allow flexible arrangements for groups of children to play and eat together
- increase the range of resources which support and develop children's physical, creative and imaginative play
- ensure resources reflect positive images of the diversity within society.

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