



Brackley Leisure Centre Crèche and Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Brackley Leisure Centre Crèche and Playscheme opened in August 1996. The setting is one of several run by SERCO Leisure. The provision operates from designated areas within Brackley Leisure Centre. The crèche and play scheme serve the local area and operate for a variety of sessions.

The crèche opens five days a week all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 09:00 to 12:00. A total of five staff work with the children in the crèche and four staff have relevant early years child care qualifications. The play scheme is open from 09:00 to 17:00 during school holidays. A total of seven staff

work with the children, with the leader holding a relevant child care qualification. The crèche and play scheme are able to support children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing an awareness of a healthy lifestyle as they take part in daily exercise that promotes their growth and development. They have fun as they explore and develop their physical skills. Younger crèche children enjoy crawling around the soft play resources and child-sized furniture. They develop their confidence and move with control as they use their bodies in a variety of ways. Older children relish the challenges of the range of activities held in the sports hall, dance studio and on the playing fields. Children become aware of the effect of physical activity on their bodies. They are encouraged to rest after energetic exercise and have opportunities for relaxation with quieter activities.

Children begin to understand that a good diet contributes to their good health. Staff speak to the children about the benefits of eating fresh fruit and other healthy foods as they discourage children from buying too many sweets at the play scheme tuck shop. Children learn the importance of regular fluids because they are encouraged to drink throughout the sessions, especially after more active play. Children's dietary requirements are met through close cooperation between the parents and the staff.

Children benefit from a comfortable childcare environment where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care during daily routines. They wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Play scheme children are reminded to wash their hands after participating in the mini-beast safari outside. They understand that they do so to get rid of germs which could make them unwell. Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have appropriate first aid knowledge. Clear procedures are in place in the event of accidents, for the administration of medication and if children are unwell.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe as a result of the adults' very good awareness of health and safety and all reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risk of accidents. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between allowing children freedom and restriction as they encourage and challenge children to experience new skills. Play scheme children play a range of team games such as badminton and tag rugby and devise their own jungle obstacle course with equipment in the centre. This challenge, along with other good practice such as road safety and sun care, allows children to understand how to protect themselves from harm. Younger crèche children are reminded not to climb over child-size furniture to help keep themselves

safe. Children's awareness of safety issues continues through their use of high quality and well maintained equipment, including craft tools. These are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Staff and children at the play scheme discuss the behaviour rules at the start of the session. Children are set clear guidelines for the activities, including time-scales, and are reminded about fire evacuation procedures, all of which helps them learn the importance of keeping safe.

Children are well supervised and protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection and continue to refresh their knowledge in this subject and of the local safeguarding children guidelines. Staff ensure that no unauthorised person has access to children and that children are safely escorted around the setting. There are clear procedures to ensure that children are collected only by authorised people.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settle well and enthusiastically take part in the full range of activities on offer in the welcoming environments of the crèche room and the sports hall. This helps promote their personal, social and emotional development. Younger children in the crèche have good opportunities to develop across the areas of learning and development. They construct waffle cubes and post items through the correct shapes. Their imaginative play is extended through a good range of figures and small world play. Older children in the play scheme choose from active and quiet opportunities and those for individuals and for teams. They pass on their knowledge to the younger ones as they play in harmony. Children gain confidence and new skills with good adult support and encouragement from the staff members and sports' trainers, who are interested in what the children are doing and are aware of how the children's skills can be developed. Challenge is planned for appropriately by the sensitive staff.

Children in the crèche and the play scheme have good opportunities to express their ideas and imaginations as they take part in less energetic activities, including a range of arts and crafts. For example, play scheme children make masks and models out of a range of materials whilst crèche children enjoy model making with playdough. Children concentrate and persevere and are proud of their achievements as they make mini-beasts as part of the play scheme theme. They explore the environment of the centre on a mini-beast hunt and share views amicably as they debate the answers in the quiz. Staff evaluate the activities they provide and seek the children's views to ensure the planned programme meets the children's needs and interests. Children enjoy the interaction and fun they have with the staff during the sessions, and generally look forward to their time at the play scheme and crèche.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met as they separate happily from their parents and carers, and are gaining self assurance and confidence with others. Younger

children are pleased to see their carers in the crèche and react well to the care they are given. Older children in the play scheme are well behaved. They take ownership of the rules, and generally need little reminding of the expectations and limitations because staff explain them clearly at the start of the session. They are respectful of staff, peers and possessions, and take turns and share. Children are encouraged to resolve their own problems when appropriate to do so, and older children are encouraged to act as good role models for the younger ones. In general, children understand that some of the children present need more help than others, and they make all children welcome. Children's understanding of diversity is fostered well by the provision of positive images of different people, and the experiences of celebrating the festivals and lives of other cultures particularly for those children attending the crèche.

Children develop their confidence and self-esteem as they express their needs and make choices in their play within the planned play scheme activities. They have an understanding that any decision must be in consultation with other children who may be affected by their choice. Children act as helpers and are praised for doing so. They take part in team activities and are encouraged to learn the responsibilities of being team members.

The partnership with parents is seen as important with information being shared about the facilities on offer, and care of the children. The very good levels of support ensure that all children feel included in the crèche and play scheme and receive a great deal of individual attention. Any special requirements or information are discussed and the special needs of children are recognised and met sensitively. Children benefit greatly from the positive partnership practitioners have developed with parents and carers. Children's care, welfare and development are promoted because staff and management seek the views of parents and children about the care provided and information received is used to plan future activities for the children and help run the facility. The complaints policy shows procedures for dealing with complaints in line with the latest requirements but it has not been made clear to parents that a record of complaints is available.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children's care is greatly enhanced by the good organisation of both the crèche and the play scheme. Indoor and outdoor space is used well to maximize play opportunities for children, and routines are organised well to meet the children's needs. The committed staff team is supplemented by staff with sports expertise, enabling them to provide activities to meet the needs of children of varying ages and interests and ensuring children are well supervised, use equipment appropriately and are supported well during the activities. A comprehensive staff induction programme, including basic training, ensures that the children are safe and that their well-being and development are promoted. Management and staff evaluate their practice to ensure that good quality care is provided in both the settings. Good practice is supported by good record keeping and the use of some established policies and procedure. However, these are not reviewed regularly and do not always reflect the

practice taking place. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provision was asked to review records and documentation regarding the child protection policy, the special needs policy and the collection of children. These policies and procedures have been reviewed in line with requirements in the National Standards and helping to ensure the safety and well-being of the children. This is also enhanced by the regular checks and fire drills. A further recommendation has been made as an outcome of this inspection to ensure that the policies and procedures are reviewed regularly. The provision was asked to ensure that staffing requirements are met at all times. Since the last inspection the crèche staff and the childcare coordinator have achieved Level 3 qualifications in childcare to help ensure good quality childcare for the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

30/03/2005. Concerns were raised with Ofsted about the security of the systems in place for the collection of children from the provision and about the ability of staff to effectively carry out their roles. An Ofsted Inspector visited the provision to discuss the concerns raised and to observe the provision and review relevant documentation under National Standard 1 (Suitable Person), 2 (Organisation) 6 (Safety), 12 (Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers) and 14 (Documentation). The provision was found not to be meeting National Standard 1 or 14 and was given actions to ensure that all staff are suitable for the role they have. The provision was also recommended to ensure the system for collecting children from the premises is effective. The provision responded in writing to say that procedures had been changed to help ensure the safety of children. These changes were checked at this inspection.

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):

- ensure that all complaints are recorded and made available to parents
- ensure that all policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, and to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children are in place and reviewed regularly.

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