



Soar Valley Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY291900
Inspection date	12 July 2005
Inspector	Kate Bryan

Setting Address	Off Kingfisher Road, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 7FG
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Registered person	Serco Leisure
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Soar Valley Leisure Centre Crèche was established in 2004 and is run by a private company. It operates from a designated room with associated facilities in Soar Valley Leisure Centre. It serves users of the leisure centre.

There are currently 17 children from 6 weeks to 5 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 09:30 until 13:30.

There are four staff who work with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level two or three and two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene which is promoted by hand washing and the use of individual towels and small sinks to encourage independence. Younger children are helped with hand washing whilst older children use the toilet and wash their hands with confidence. Children's health is maintained as practitioners display consistent levels of hygiene, such as wiping surfaces with anti-bacterial spray. Children have a choice of fresh fruit daily which is used to promote healthy choices and drinks are sugar and additive free to ensure that good practices are encouraged at an early age. Parent's wishes are put into practice regarding times for children to rest and sleep so that their well-being is promoted. Older children do not have access to a range of experiences that promote their physical development as the crèche does not have outdoor play space or large play equipment, therefore they have limited opportunities to gain confidence through challenges in this area. Opportunities for younger children are satisfactorily promoted by activities such as action songs and floor play which promote their physical awareness and growth.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is satisfactorily promoted by a range of measures, such as, systems for admitting adults to the room. These are understood by all practitioners and procedures for health and safety and risk assessments ensure that children are kept safe, in line with health and safety requirements. Children's needs are effectively safeguarded as parent's wishes are listened to, for example, a parent was summoned from the gym when her child became distressed. Children have easy access to a good range of developmentally appropriate resources, many of which are stored at children's height, to promote independence and choice. Children are encouraged to learn about keeping safe by practices such as regular fire drills. Children are well protected by practitioners who have a good awareness of child protection procedures and know how to put these into place to promote children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the crèche and have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities which promotes their play and learning, such as craft activities.

However, practitioners have not sufficiently adapted activities for older children to ensure that they receive a broad range of experiences which promotes learning in all areas. Children are confident and skilled communicators who are able to use words to describe real and imaginary experiences and to convey choices. Children expect to have their opinions valued and listened to because staff have warm and productive relationships with them and know them as individuals, allowing children to feel secure and develop a strong sense of their own self-worth. Children's emotional well-being is well fostered by practitioners who work hard to ensure that children settle and play harmoniously together. Sharing and cooperation are appropriately promoted in activities, such as snack time, which allows children to form relationships with each other and to develop a sense that their own needs are important. Practitioners use effective questioning techniques to encourage children to think about colours and numbers and to promote their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are warmly welcomed into the crèche, and practitioners ensure that children gain an awareness of the wider community by providing a suitable range of resources which represent the community at large. Positive images of the wider community enable children from all backgrounds to develop self-esteem and a sense of their own worth. Children are well behaved and exhibit good manners because practitioners are consistent in their approach and apply appropriate behaviour techniques which children can understand. Children are effectively encouraged to be responsible for their own behaviour as they are made aware of sensible boundaries which allows them to develop a sense of self assurance and confidence. Babies and older children settle well because practitioner's work closely with parent's to ensure that the child's individual needs are met. Children benefit from good working relationships between practitioners and parents. Parents receive informative daily reports about their children's time at the crèche and relevant details are taken. This enables an individual and appropriate service to be provided so that their emotional well-being is promoted.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is enhanced by the satisfactory nature of the organisation at the crèche. Children have the opportunity to use resources in a well designed room that has a separate baby area so that younger children have care provided in a familiar environment, which contributes to their emotional well-being. Toilets are located off this room so that children's safety is promoted by them not leaving the premises. Children's play and learning opportunities are maximised as the room has a home corner, book area and free play area. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place and is regularly reviewed. Children benefit from the input of well qualified and skilled staff who undergo a sound induction procedure, and good staff ratios ensure that children feel secure and valued. A range of satisfactory policies and procedures are known by all

staff so that children are treated consistently and appropriately. Children also benefit from the practitioner's commitment to training and increasing their awareness of developments in childcare. The quality of the provision means that it meets the needs of all the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- provide more opportunities for older children to experience a range of activities, for example, by using the Birth to three framework
- ensure that the policy on special needs complies with current legislation.

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