



Penwortham Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334367
Inspection date	30 November 2006
Inspector	Denise Sixsmith
Setting Address	Crow Hills Road, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0JE
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Registered person	Serco Leisure Operating Limited
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?

Penwortham Leisure Centre Crèche and Play Scheme facility has been in operation since 1993. It was registered with Serco Leisure in 2006, offering crèche and school holiday care to children under eight years of age. The scheme operates within a leisure centre which is situated in a residential area of Penwortham, near Preston. Care and play is provided in an area of the leisure centre which has been specifically provided to cater for the children's needs and has access to its own toilet and kitchen facilities. This area is not accessed by the general public when operating. An enclosed outdoor play area is provided for the play scheme.

The facility is registered to provide care for 60 children between the ages of four and eight years. They are registered to provide care for 12 children under the age of five years in the crèche facility. The crèche operates during term times only for two sessions, between 10.00 and 11.30 on Monday to Thursday. Serco Leisure employs two qualified staff member; other staff members are available to maintain ratios according to the numbers of children attending. The play scheme operates during school holidays and sessions are from 08.00 to 16.00.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well-being is protected well, because there are appropriate procedures in place for staff to follow in the event a child being unwell or having an accident. This is further enhanced by all staff being appropriately qualified in first aid and first aid boxes being well stocked. Children learn about the importance of good hygiene practices through established daily routines, for instance, they wash their hands before they eat and after using the toilet. Children readily use the soap dispenser, with help from staff, but are less confident in using the mechanical hand dryer which is sited at adult height, with one child not liking the noise. Consequently, the children are unable to dry their hands effectively.

Children have appropriate opportunities to have sleeps or rest time in accordance with their needs, because staff have provided a comfortable environment in an area of the room. Children are developing their fine motor skills well during craft activity and through the playing of musical instruments. There is ample space for the children to move around freely in the room.

Parents provide snacks and drinks for their children. These are stored in the refrigerator in the crèche kitchen. However, staff are unable to ensure that food is stored at an appropriate temperature because there is no system for monitoring temperatures. Information provided for parents on the enrolment forms encourages them to provide healthy food options and staff talk to children about healthy foods to encourage positive eating habits. Children are provided with a suitable space and time to eat their snacks, in a relaxed and social group. Staff eat with the children ensuring that children only eat what has been provided for them by their parents, therefore, ensuring specific dietary needs are adhered to and the children's welfare assured. Children have ready access to their drinks throughout the session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment because staff are vigilant in conducting daily risk assessments of the room and equipment. Fire and emergency evacuation procedures are practised regularly to ensure that staff and children's safety is promoted, however, the fire blanket in the kitchen cannot be appropriately accessed in the event of an emergency. A clear procedure is in place for the safe dropping off and collection of children by parents, although visitors are not always asked to register which could compromise children's safety.

Staff are very welcoming to both parents and children and display children's work to provide a welcoming environment, including Christmas displays and an Advent calendar. Children are able to access toys and equipment safely because staff conduct a check while they set out the room for the children prior to them arriving. A comfortable area is provided through the use of mats and cushions for the younger children as well as providing a quiet area for older children.

Children's welfare is promoted because there are clear procedures relating to the protection of children. Staff understand their role in child protection and through training understand the

signs and symptoms of child abuse. The key staff have a sound understanding of the child protection procedure and are clear of the action to take should a child protection issue arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises and resources are organised so that children's needs are met appropriately. Children are occupied and interested in what they are doing, such as really enjoying joining staff in singing Christmas songs, accompanying themselves on the musical instruments and accessing the role play area. Children develop their creativity through planned craft activities, including the making of Christmas cards, snowflakes and snowmen.

Children have relaxed and positive relationships with the staff, who have a quiet manner with the children, resulting in a happy environment and contented children and babies. The staff are not currently referring to the 'Birth to three matters' framework to promote the learning and development of younger children, which means that planned and purposeful activities are limited for children within this age range.

Children's self-esteem is fostered very well because staff value what children say, are interested in what they are doing and answer their questions readily. A pleasant waking time is provided for babies with lots of comfort and cuddles being provided by staff until the babies are fully awake and feeling confident.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

A warm and friendly welcome helps support a sense of belonging for parents and children. Agreeable relationships are established with parents which ensures that children's individual needs are met well. This includes regular discussion about children's activities and achievements when children are collected, as well as a written partnership agreement and access to policies and procedures. Parents spoken to are happy with the care that their children receive and how well they 'settle' after a period of absence. A complaints record has been introduced in line with the amended regulation in the National Standards.

Children have some opportunities to learn about others, through planned activities, books and toys that reflect different cultures and disability. Children behave and respond well to an appropriate range of strategies used by staff to support their behaviour. They are learning to cooperate with one another, for example, they happily follow guidance from staff to 'take turns' during the singing and music activity. Children readily say 'please' and 'thank you', or respond to gentle reminders from staff, who are good role models and encourage positive behaviour through the use of praise. Consequently, the children are happy and well behaved.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The staff team work well together and create a relaxed atmosphere where children feel happy and secure. Children enjoy their time in the setting. They are busy and well occupied as they benefit from the attention given to them by the caring staff team.

Staff show a positive commitment to personal development and continual improvement which enhances the care and the outcomes for children. Robust vetting procedures are in place and the registered person ensures all adults working with children are appropriately vetted. Ratios are well met and staff are successfully deployed so that children are appropriately supervised. Documentation is in order and duly meets mandatory requirements, which positively supports children's care and well-being. Policies and procedures are an accurate reflection of the practice observed and confidentiality is maintained.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- improve systems to ensure that food is stored at appropriate temperatures and children can dry their hands effectively
- ensure that a record is maintained of all visitors to the childcare provision and the fire blanket can be appropriately accessed during an emergency to enhance the safety of the children

- develop the staff's knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to extend the range of planned activity for children of this age group.

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