



Angel Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY241454 |
| Inspection date | 04 December 2006 |
| Inspector | Jackie Liffen |
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| Registered person | Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council |
| 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?

Angel Leisure Centre Crèche opened in 2003. It operates from the Angel Leisure Centre which is located in a shopping complex in the centre of Tonbridge. A maximum of 16 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 09:15 to 13:00 on a Wednesday and Thursday; 09.30 to 12.30 on a Monday; 9.30 to 13.00 on a Tuesday and 09.15 to 12.30 on a Friday.

There are currently 92 children from three months to five years on roll. There are no funded children. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are three permanent part time staff; all of them have recognised early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff contribute to children's good health by ensuring that they all wash their hands before eating. Although most young children are still in nappies, they are gradually learning good hygiene practices. Children are protected from infection by staff who use sterilising fluid to wipe surfaces. Staff try to ensure that germs are not spread by wiping toys regularly with anti-bacterial cleanser, however, they are not always disinfecting articles that are put into babies' mouths. Although the baby corner is not often used, staff ensure cleanliness by providing a separate, special mat for them to lay on. Children tend not to go to sleep within the crèche although staff provide a cot and clean linen to use if necessary. Alternatively, if children arrive asleep they are left in their pushchairs or rockers. Children do not exercise regularly outside because of the nature of the setting. However, staff provide sufficient small climbing apparatus for toddlers to extend their physical capabilities indoors. Parents sometimes bring specific food and drink for their children to ensure that they are well nourished. Otherwise staff tend to give them a drink of squash and a biscuit at snack time. Children are not helping themselves to a drink at any time, although staff offer them one at intervals during the session.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure, child-friendly, and clean indoor environment where they have sufficient space to play comfortably on the suitable floor, at the age appropriate tables or on the carpet. They easily reach the child sized toilets and wash basins where they are learning to switch on the taps and use the towel dispenser. Children play with bright and cheerful toys and activities and staff provide attractive and well maintained furniture and equipment which help to include all children. Children are avoiding accidental injury because the group use a range of safety features such as stair gates and socket covers. The low level glass is reinforced so that children cannot hurt themselves. Although the smoke alarms are tested on a regular basis, some children are not becoming familiar with fire drills because they are only practised twice a year. Children's welfare is safeguarded by staff who have a knowledge of child protection procedures. They use the effective policy to work with parents and professionals and ensure the health and safety of all children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Young children enter with their parents who stay with them until they are settled. Children soon join in a number of different activities within the crèche and are building up their confidence in a secure and comfortable environment. They happily explore a number of familiar toys such as the dolls house and the toy stables where they spend some time investigating and playing imaginative games. Children thrive because the staff use their qualifications and experience to help provide well for young children. Staff are helping children to reach their potential, for example, by waiting to interact until appropriate and then introducing things to

extend children's play. Children are involved in a broad range of planned activities which support their development because staff ensure a congenial atmosphere by playing appropriate music and supplying plenty of colourful activities. They are building up their confidence as they explore and examine the good quality toys. Children relate and respond well to adults who are interested in what they do and say. For example, a member of staff extends children's learning as she reads a book to them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and included in all the activities on offer. Staff follow the written equal opportunities policy in order to give respect and concern to all children. They keep suitable records on children and use the information given by parents to provide well for each one. Children benefit from a number of resources which help them value diversity. For example, they play with a multicultural family in the dolls house and are familiar with the welcome poster which is written in different languages. Staff improve on their knowledge of how to care for children with specific needs by ensuring that they liaise closely with their parents. They adapt the facilities so that all children are included in all activities irrespective of their background or ability. Children gain in self esteem as they happily explore their surroundings and staff praise them for their ability and achievements. Although they tend to play alongside each other they are also beginning to learn to respond to appropriate expectations for their behaviour. Children are learning to work harmoniously with others because staff quickly intervene if they become distressed or disturbed. Staff manage children's behaviour well by encouraging them to search out a selection of different activities so that each one is happy and satisfied. Staff make an effort to liaise closely with parents so that children's continuation of care is enhanced. For example, they speak at length with parents when they drop off children, taking notes on how they are doing and making sure that they have an emergency telephone number. However, some parents are not fully informed about how to make a complaint or the policies of the setting, meaning that sometimes the children's co-ordination of care is not promoted.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's security and development is extended because staff have a commitment to improving the setting and seek the views of parents on a regular basis. The qualified members of staff use their knowledge and understanding of child development to ensure that children benefit according to their individual needs. Children are safeguarded because the management of the centre ensure that all recruitment, vetting, induction and appraisal of personnel are sufficient and detailed enough to promote children's health and enjoyment. Staff give regard to the organisation of the setting so that children's well being is enhanced. For example, they encourage children to take themselves to the adjacent toilet and babies rest in a secure, partitioned area of the playroom. The group positively supports children's care, learning and play by developing effective policies and procedures. Records are kept confidentially and neatly filed so that children's security and development are enhanced.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group were asked to consider how to provide children with opportunities to experience a range of outdoor play. The group have a small climbing frame on soft mats plus a tricycle within the room, but children are not taken outside on a regular basis because of the nature of the setting. Staff were asked to provide a range of multi-cultural resources to provide children with the opportunity to actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Children now play with a range of toys to develop their awareness of the diversity of society, for example they have a multicultural family, multi-cultural food and a welcoming poster on the window.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- consider extending the range of snacks offered to children
- extend arrangements for sterilizing baby toys which are put into mouths
- consider how to extend an awareness of fire safety arrangements
- ensure that parents are aware of how to make a complaint and involve them more by making it easier for them to read information provided by the 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