



Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330755
Inspection date	18 December 2006
Inspector	Deborah Wilkinson
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Registered person	Phoenix Fitness Centre, Greenwich Leisure Ltd
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre Crèche Play and Learn was registered in 2006 and is located in the NW3 area of Camden. It is one of a number of crèches operated by Greenwich Leisure Limited. The crèche room is on the first floor of the leisure centre and is for the exclusive use of centre users. The crèche which operates throughout the year has core hours of 09.00 - 15.00 on Monday - Friday and 09.00 - 13.00 at weekends. On some days evening sessions are offered. Places for the crèche are mostly booked in advance. Children may stay no longer than two hours and parents must remain on the premises at all times. The crèche may care for a maximum of 12 children aged under five at any one time. Seven staff, the majority of whom have a childcare qualification, work with the children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in clean, hygienic premises. There are toilet facilities within the crèche and a designated nappy changing area. At least two members of staff have a current first aid certificate and a fully stocked first aid box is available. Procedures in place to promote children's health and wellbeing include a sick children's policy, obtaining emergency treatment and medication administration. While staff keep a written record when medication is given, they do not obtain parents' written permission prior to its administration, which is a breach of regulations.

Children are not provided with refreshments as the policy is that no food is allowed in the crèche. Fresh drinking water is always available and parents may leave a drink for their child if they wish.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children use the self contained premises which are organised to provide space for them to play. There is a designated section for babies and an arts and crafts area. Staff have made a number frieze, small posters and two mobiles which are used to decorate the room. Children remain within the crèche rooms which are checked by staff each day for any potential hazards. However, children are at risk as there is no security system to prevent unauthorised entry into or exit from the crèche.

The small tables and chairs allow children to sit comfortably at activities and there is a range of appropriate play equipment for them to use.

The overall welfare of children is safeguarded. Written child protection procedures are in place and staff understand the action they have to take if they identify any issues. Parents are made aware that staff have a responsibility to report any concerns to the local authority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are content and settled. Plans show that they participate in a range of play experiences, and that art activities in particular are linked to themes. These have included gardening, soup and hobbies. Children have made a large collage of a peacock with the tail formed from their painted footprints and this and samples of their work including drawing and colouring are displayed. Although children are unable to play outside they have opportunities for physical exercise when they play ring games, dance or kick a football around.

The children use a selection of toys and resources including dolls, books, small world play, construction and puzzles. However, because the crèche closes at 15.00 these are put away early to allow staff to clean the room and little is left for the children to play with.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's details are recorded on registration cards which inform staff about their individual needs. However, the way in which the cards are filed makes it difficult to access records quickly.

Some children come to the crèche often and staff know them very well. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcomed and staff use their knowledge of these children to plan activities that are appropriate. The children do activities linked to different festivals and a world map with greetings written in the children's first language is displayed.

Children see positive behaviour modelled by staff who are polite, friendly and speak in a quiet way. Staff experience few problems as the children are kept busy during their time in the crèche. Written procedures regarding behaviour management are in place, and any difficulty is discussed with the parents. Staff talk to parents when children arrive at, or leave the crèche ensuring that they are given details about their child's time in the group. Prospective users are welcomed and staff tell them about how the group operates. Information is also shared through the use of a notice board, and an information leaflet which outlines key policies and procedures and sets out what parents can expect from the service.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are cared for in premises that provide them with adequate space for their play. Staff have been thoroughly vetted for their suitability and the relationship between the adults and children is positive.

However, there are significant weaknesses in the organisation of the daily running of the crèche. The systems to monitor staff practice are not stringent and shortcomings in the daily operation are not readily identified. Written policies and procedures are in place to guide staff. However, children's safety is compromised as the procedures for recording attendance and the administration of medication are not followed. Information about children's individual needs is recorded, but cannot be accessed quickly due to omissions in the details noted on the daily registration sheets.

The provision does not meet the needs of the range of 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- implement a system to prevent unauthorised entry into, or exit from the crèche
- improve the registration system to ensure that times children attend are recorded and that the information about children can be quickly accessed
- ensure that the procedures for the administration of medication are followed

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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