



North Devon Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332362
Inspection date	30 October 2006
Inspector	Karyn Yarnold
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Registered person	North Devon Leisure Centre
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?

There has been a crèche at North Devon Leisure Centre for more than 30 years. Registration was changed in 2006, because of a change in the management of The Leisure Centre. The crèche and the holiday club are now managed by Parkwood Leisure Limited. Childcare facilities operate from five rooms and a swimming pool. Together, the 2 facilities are registered to care for a maximum of 48 children under 8 years old: 24 children may attend the crèche and 24 children may attend the out of school club. The crèche is open Monday to Friday, from 09.30 to 12.30, throughout the year, closing on public holidays. The crèche offers care for children from new born to 5 years old. The holiday club operates during the school holidays and cares for children from 5 years to 8 years and this opens, Monday to Friday, from 08.30 to 18.00 and from 09.00 to 12.00 on a Saturday. There are currently 300 children on roll.

Children and babies come from a wide catchment area, as facilities offered by the leisure centre, serve parents who want to take part in the sport and leisure activities offered at the centre and need child care for their young children to do so.

The leisure centre employs 9 staff, all who hold relevant qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a relaxing environment. Satisfactory hygiene routines are in place to ensure that children learn about personal hygiene and are protected from cross infection. For example, older children are encouraged to wash and dry their hands after toileting and staff use suitable cleaning products to spray nappy changing mats after babies and children have been changed. Nappies are disposed of adequately after changing. This together with regular cleaning checks around the premises and on toys and equipment reduces the risk of spreading infection.

Children become involved in a suitable range of activities that contribute to their health. They receive fresh air when participating in outdoor activities such as playing with sand and water and walking around the perimeter of the leisure centre. Children are cared for appropriately, in the case of accidents and when medication needs to be administered. However, at the time of the inspection, some items in the first aid box were out of date and actual dosage of medication is not recorded. This exposes children to risk of not receiving suitable treatment in the event of an accident and compromises children's safety. Most staff have appropriate first aid training that includes a paediatric element.

Children receive an adequate selection of snacks and drinks. For example, children are offered a plain biscuit and orange squash. Parents are able to provide snacks and drinks for their children and babies. Notices about drinks are displayed to advise parents. Babies receive timed bottle feeds by caring staff that ensure that bibs are worn and used to clean babies' faces. Snack time for older children is a sociable time as they all sit together on cushions and help give out biscuits and talk with staff. This provides children with an opportunity to socialise, develop their language skills and raises their self esteem by being made to feel special.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children and babies are cared for in various rooms within the leisure centre. These include a crèche, party room, soft play room, exercise room, sports hall and swimming pool for older children. Colourful displays around the crèche room include younger children's own work and makes the room inviting. This room is well sectioned off with child height section dividers that enable children to move around independently and freely to engage in different play activities. A separate area for under two's creates a safe environment for non-mobile babies.

Children have access to a satisfactory selection of age related toys and equipment, and staff lay out toys to enable children to self select. This introduces independence to children and allows them choice. Toys and equipment are well used and staff have a rota to ensure that they are regularly cleaned.

Regular risk assessments are undertaken by leisure centre staff which promotes safety for children. An effective system is used to ensure that crèche staff are aware of parents whereabouts. This includes rubber hand bands with numbers and a system where parents record where they are within the leisure centre. This promotes children's safety. Staff are diligent when allowing children and babies to leave the crèche as they know parents well and have systems in place that ensures that children and babies are not able to leave the site with an adult unknown to staff. Appropriate fire fighting and smoke detection equipment is in place and regular evacuation drills promotes children's safety. However, at the time of the inspection the entrance door and management of access to the crèche was not secure. People gained access without sufficient challenge. For example, although there is a high level handle on the entrance door adults entered the crèche easily without being challenged. This compromises children's safety.

Children's welfare and safety is suitably supported with regard to child protection. The manager has a good understanding of child protection that is cascaded to other members of staff, to keep them up-to-date on present procedures. This is introduced to new staff during their induction. The settings' child protection policy is clear and comprehensive and includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children and babies are offered a good range of activities and experiences during their time at the leisure centre crèche. Staff plan individually for different aged children and a good balance of child led and adult led activities enables children to enjoy their time when attending. Staff use the Birth to three matters framework to plan for under 3's. Older children learn about number when counting the number of children at circle time and learn about shape when making shape pictures.

Children and babies are valued by all members of staff and their work is displayed beautifully. For example, the children have made a display of their creative paintings, and shape matching. This raises children's self esteem, sense of accomplishment and self confidence. Children are happy, settled and enjoy warm interactions with staff. They are all assigned a key worker, to foster links between the setting and home. This is extended to young babies, who receive good care such as nappy changing and feeding from consistent, familiar adults, throughout their stay at the setting.

Older children enjoy smelling, tasting and dissolving green jelly to discover how solids can be made into liquids and then return to solids. Staff conversations around this, promotes children's learning and understanding. Babies are stimulated by the use of treasure baskets and baby gyms.

Children form good relationships with staff and they take responsibility as they join in routine tasks, such as tidying up prior to snack time. Children have many opportunities to be creative. By, for example, engaging in different painting activities such as splatter and string painting, construction play, manipulating play dough for pleasure and cutting shapes. They decorate Halloween hats and learn about other cultures when being introduced to other cultures festivals.

For example, by celebrating Divali. Children learn about nature by growing cress and other plants and learn about the local community when the local fire service visit.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the setting and develop good relationships with each other and staff. Individual children's needs are met and sufficient information on children and babies is recorded to allow individual care to be met. For example, children with mobility difficulties are assisted by staff and included in planned activities.

Children experience diversity when participating in celebrating different multicultural festivals such as Divali, Chinese New Year and Harvest. A 'kid's gallery' displaying children's paintings ensures that children are made to feel part of the setting. Children generally behave well and help to tidy away prior to snack and news time. Staff ask children questions and give lots of verbal praise. This raises children's self esteem.

Good relationships are developed with parents. Parents, children and babies are greeted warmly. A well displayed parent's notice board provides sufficient information for parents to be made aware of on going events within the setting. Parents are kept informed of their children's progress when meeting with their children's key worker and are given workbooks that records children's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting creates a welcoming environment for children and babies. Staff are suitably qualified and plan together to provide a range of experiences for children and babies. Children's work is displayed around the room which gives parents an insight into what children do during their time at the setting. Children receive good adult attention and are familiar with the daily routine. They benefit from the staffs' commitment to providing a warm and caring atmosphere and systems are in place to ensure that staff continue to attend further training and extend their skills to benefit the group.

All required documentation is in place and completed satisfactorily and stored appropriately. The person in charge has a very good understanding of her responsibilities and has a sound knowledge of the National Standards. A suitable recruitment process is in place which ensures that staff with relevant experience and qualifications are employed. Staff work well as a team and the organisation of different rooms enables children of varying ages to have access to different play opportunities. Overall, the setting 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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last 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 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):

- ensure there is an effective system for managing access to the creche room
- ensure the first aid box is checked frequently and replaced as necessary
- ensure medication records include actual dosage administered.

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