



Steyning Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332564
Inspection date	25 October 2006
Inspector	Teresa Colburn
Setting Address	Steyning Sports Centre, Horsham Road, STEYNING, West Sussex, BN44 3AA
Telephone number	01903 879666
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Registered person	D C Leisure Management Ltd
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?

Steyning Leisure Centre Crèche and School Holiday Club is one of a number of facilities operated by D C Leisure Limited. The setting opened in 2006. The crèche operates from a designated room and the Holiday Club from three rooms within the Leisure Centre, which is situated within the campus of Steyning Grammar school on the outskirts of Steyning, West Sussex. A maximum of 12 children may attend the crèche at any one time and a maximum of 60 children may attend the Holiday Club. The crèche is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 09:30 to 12:30 throughout the year. The Holiday Club operates Monday to Friday during school holidays. There is no outside play area for the crèche. The Holiday Club has access to six enclosed multi-sports courts for outside activities. Children attend from the local area.

The management employs 10 staff to work within both settings. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualification and one staff is working towards a recognised qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are cared for in a clean, well maintained environment. Crèche children stay healthy as the staff have effective procedures in place to ensure good standards. For example, staff immediately clean dirty noses, clean tables with anti-bacterial spray prior to children eating snacks and request adults and children remove outdoor shoes prior to walking on the designated baby area. Appropriate documentation is held identifying children's individual health, dietary and medical needs. A number of staff hold a recognised first aid certificate and clear procedures are followed when dealing with any accidents. Thus safeguarding children ensuring that children can be cared for appropriately should an emergency arise.

Crèche children receive snacks during their session, for example, apple, banana and sometimes a plain biscuit. They are encouraged to sit at the table with staff whilst eating and drinking. Holiday Club children's lunches and snacks are supplied by their parents, parents are requested to provide cool packs to ensure food items remain fresh. However staff do not check lunches to ensure cool packs are provided or remove perishable items and store them appropriately. Holiday Club children socialise well with each other and staff at lunchtimes. However they are not encouraged to wash their hands prior to meals and do not have access to suitable furniture to enable them to sit comfortably whilst eating. Children are provided with two opportunities during the day to purchase sweets or snacks from the leisure centres vending machine. Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day, which ensures they are fully hydrated before, during and after sporting activities.

Crèche children have opportunities to develop their physical skills. They can easily access the sit and ride toys and walk around supported by low level furniture. Holiday Club children have numerous opportunities to learn new skills whilst participating in a range of planned sports activities. For example, swimming, participating in coached trampoline sessions, go-kart races, running games and freely playing badminton and ping-pong. They use the outdoor areas at numerous times throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Crèche children have free access to a child orientated room, which provides space for them to play freely. The environment is welcoming and secure. Children approach the staff with ease, indicating good relationships are being built. Children's artwork is displayed which makes the children feel welcome. Holiday Club children have access to three sports halls, they have ample space to move around freely and enjoy some of the activities. However they are not provided with sufficient non-sports resources or equipment to further extend their learning or enjoyment within the club.

Staff conduct informal risk assessments prior to children's arrival to ensure children's safety is protected. In addition management conduct comprehensive written risk assessments for the leisure centre. Effective security and procedures within the crèche ensure unwanted visitors

cannot gain access. Staff supervision ensures unwanted visitors to the Holiday Club are minimised. Children are escorted to the toilets, staff ensure they are not in use by the general public prior to children accessing them, this ensures Holiday Club children are given independence once the toilets have been checked for unvetted persons. Holiday Club children freely relay the correct procedures to follow in the event of a fire, therefore they are beginning to understand fire safety. Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe when participating in sporting activities, for example staff remind children of the need to tie shoes laces prior to tag games and of the need to listen to specialised sports coaches and lifeguards.

Staff have appropriate awareness and understanding of child protection issues. They are aware of the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child in their care. This helps protect children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Crèche children are settled and secure because staff build close relationships and get to know the children well. Babies' care is consistent as staff follow their home routine and liaise with parents to ensure continuity of care. Babies enjoy cuddles, babbling and interactive play with consistent staff. For example staff interact well with a non crawling baby. They are provided with numerous resources to engage their enjoyment and interest, staff encourage the baby to move towards the musical ball, the baby continually laughs and babbles, showing they are enjoying themselves. Staff recognise when upset babies are tired, they gently rock and speak to them until they are asleep, they are then gently laid into bouncing chairs, until the parents return. Toddlers are provided with a range of activities to support their play and learning. For example, painting, trains, musical instruments, dressing up clothes and a comfortable book area. Children and staff enjoy reading books together. For example, children select nursery rhyme books and both the children and staff greatly enjoyed singing the many rhymes together. Staff provide suitable resources and children are free to choose what they wish to play with.

Holiday Club children are beginning to build positive relationships with staff, and some readily approach staff for support. However at times quiet children or upset children are not fully acknowledged as staff continue to engage in sporting activities. On arrival children are able to freely choose from a limited selection of indoor play equipment, for example board games, hoops, table tennis and ping pong. Staff plan structured sporting events and activities throughout the day, for example swimming, rounders, obstacle course, art and craft sessions. However, children who do not wish to participate or enjoy these activities are provided with limited resources and equipment to meet their individual needs. Subsequently some children are bored at times and wander around aimlessly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have equal access to resources and equipment. Crèche children are treated as individuals, staff spend time getting to know each child. Children are developing an awareness of their cultures through a range of activities and resources. Staff are beginning to recognise

Holiday Club children as individuals and the need to provide a wider range of resources to meet their varying needs.

The group has some systems in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. For example, the leisure centre has multi wheelchair access, low level sports equipment and have previously accommodated a special needs child attending with their carer.

All children are generally well behaved. Crèche children benefit from constant praise and encouragement. For example, they are encouraged to share resources and help tidy up prior to going home. Holiday Club children are beginning to understand the informal ground rules, for example no shouting. They are beginning to develop good relationships and get on well with each other and generally understand the need to share, take turns and help each other. Most staff use appropriate strategies with the older children, helping them understand right from wrong. For example distraction, explanation and discussion. However one incident shows behaviour management is not always appropriate with no explanation as to why children needed to stop their game.

Parental feedback is positive and parents state they are happy with the activities, have positive relationships with the staff, their children have fun and some are beginning to learn new sports related skills. Parents receive suitable information about the groups before their children start and complete suitable registration forms to ensure that staff are aware of individual needs. Holiday Club parents receive some basic information about the activities provided.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Crèche children benefit from experienced staff who are caring and committed to ensuring children are happy and well settled. The staff work well as a team, which ensures children's needs are being met. Some Holiday Club staff are inexperienced at ensuring all children are well stimulated, involved and interested. There are systems in place for staff recruitment and induction, to ensure children are cared for by appropriate persons. However, some staffing file documentation is not easily to hand.

Most of the required documentation to promote children's safety and well-being is in place. However, some policies and procedures require amending to reflect current legislation and correct telephone numbers. Parents are requested to record their child's arrival time and sign to confirm who will collect their child prior to leaving the setting. This process is duplicated at home time, which ensures children's safety is well protected. Staff ratio's are maintained effectively to ensure that children are cared for safely and appropriately. The crèche has clear systems in place to protect children from people who have not been suitably vetted.

The setting meets 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 require 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):

- ensure children are encouraged to follow suitable hygiene procedures prior to meals and are provided with suitable furniture to enable them to sit comfortably whilst eating
- increase equipment and resources to provide a broad balance of opportunities for all the children
- develop the organisation and structure of activities to ensure all the children are fully involved and interested
- ensure all staff have a good understanding of dealing with behaviour management effectively
- review documentation to ensure it is in line with current legislation.

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