



Valley Leisure Centre (VLC)

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334298
Inspection date	23 October 2006
Inspector	Margaret, Ann Sandfield
Setting Address	Pent Valley Sports Centre, Tile Kiln Lane, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4PB
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Registered person	Pent Valley Technology College/Valley Leisure Centre
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care

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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Valley Leisure Centre (VLC) Active is part of Pent Valley Technical college facilities. It opened in 2006. It operates from the main sports hall and a dance studio of the Valley Leisure Centre. There is a fully fenced outdoor play area.

There are currently 59 aged from five to under 14. The play scheme currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The play scheme employs seven staff. Of these, the supervisor holds appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day children are offered a variety of physical activities indoors and on most days outdoors, weather permitting. As a result, they are developing control of their bodies and learn about how exercise has a positive effect on their health.

Children have regular breaks timetabled into the routine, which prevents them from becoming thirsty. Children can buy a variety of healthy food from the leisure centres canteen. Staff ensure children do not purchase any food or drinks that their parent's do not wish them to have. Most children provide their own lunch, snacks and additional drinks in accordance with their dietary needs and parent's wishes. Records are available supporting children's good health. However, the accident records are recorded on the same page for different children. As a result they do not remain confidential.

Children generally learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Staff remind them to wash their hands after using the toilet, which supports their good health. However, there is no expectation that they should wash their hands before eating their lunch. The failure to fully promote hygiene practices does little to help reduce the risk of cross contamination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure, warm, welcoming environment. They mainly use the sports hall, with the occasional use of a dance studio. There are high ceilings, but little natural light or ventilation. All rooms used are kept at a suitable temperature. Staff complete a visual risk assessment before each session on both the equipment to be used and the environment. This means children are able to move around freely and independently. The staff monitor and supervise children sufficiently to help prevent accidents or incidents. This provides children with a safe environment in which to relax and play confidently and safely. Children self select activities from a suitable range of equipment and resources, which meet safety standards.

The provider has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is being safeguarded and promoted. The staff follow clear procedures to keep children safe when being collected. Parents identify the person who is going to collect their child if it is not them and staff record their name and identity. Children will not be released to the care of another adult unless parents have given this information. Although parents sign their children in and the children's team leader ticks their own register, the exact arrival and collections times are not recorded. Not all staff demonstrate a secure understanding of what to do if they have any child protection concerns. There are sufficient staff employed by VLC who hold a first aid certificate. They have a clear lost child procedure. As a result, children's welfare is being adequately safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children appear settled, happy and confident. They are enthusiastic and enjoy the range of vigorous activities provided. Children independently help themselves from a range of well maintained resources made available at the session, which meets their needs and interests. Quieter play resources are not so readily available. There are crayons, pencils, paper and stencils for children to use, which gives them limited choices of what to do if they wish to play quietly. This provides children with very limited choices of what to do if they wish to play quietly. Children happily play by themselves or in small groups or all together in group games.

Children are supported by the staff who know them well. Staff are skilled at encouraging children to extend their experiences and at listening and talking to children. Although children are encouraged to choose the energetic games or activities for the afternoon session, there is a daily activity plan to fall back on. Sessions are generally organised so that children experience mainly adult led activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They develop good self-esteem through opportunities to confidently voice their opinions, take decisions and make choices. Children are given consistent messages and reminders about what is expected of them. When a child was kicking a ball too hard, staff quietly took him aside and explained why his use of the ball was inappropriate. She reminded him of what the rules of the game were, which she had already clearly explained before the game had started. As a result, children generally behave well. Children chat happily to each other and to familiar adults during activities. They show a great deal of care and concern for each other, sharing, taking turns and playing together nicely. Children wait patiently for their turn on the bouncy castle and trampoline.

Staff provide a meaningful range of active activities and resources. However, there is little choice of less energetic resources, to encourage children to relax as well as be active. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding on how to provide an inclusive provision. Several staff have undertaken additional training to care for children with additional needs, which include a special needs trampoline coach course and adapted exercise for people with disabilities. They provide sports wheelchairs, which all children can use in games such as volleyball. This enables all children to feel valued and respected as individuals.

Partnership with parents is good. Policies and procedures are available for parents, which keep them well informed about the service provided and their child's activities. Children's needs are met through discussion with their parents and written information obtained from the parents. This contributes to children's continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Good organisation of staff, activities and space results in the care for younger children being suitably met alongside the needs of the older children. As a result all children's health, enjoyment and achievement are being promoted adequately. The registered person ensures that the required adult to child ratios is consistently met, to support children's needs effectively and safeguard their wellbeing. They ensure that there are a minimum of two adults on duty at all times. The registered person ensures that adults looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so. They follow the written recruitment procedures to ensure people working with children are appropriately vetted, trained and qualified to do so. This impacts positively on the quality of care children receive, because all adults working with the children know what is expected of them. At the beginning of the first day of the scheme, the registration certificate was not on display. This was immediately addressed and it is now available for parent's information. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

n/a

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.

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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 hand washing routines are followed that reduces the risk of cross contamination and help children to remain healthy

- ensure staff have a good knowledge and understanding of current child protection procedures to ensure children are protected from harm
- ensure there is a sufficient range of quieter activities for children to choose from that meets their needs

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