



Arches Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY243390
Inspection date	13 February 2007
Inspector	Justine George
Setting Address	Arches Leisure Centre, 80 Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, London, SE10 9UX
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Registered person	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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Arches Leisure Centre Crèche opened in 1989. It is run by Greenwich Leisure Limited. It operates from a self-contained area on the first floor of Arches Leisure Centre in the heart of Greenwich. The crèche is available for parents and guardians participating in activities in the centre.

There are currently over 200 children on roll aged from six weeks to under five years. Children attend for a maximum of two hours at any one time. The crèche opens five days a week all year round. Opening hours are between 09.30 until 15.00. Two full-time staff work directly with the children and three additional sessional staff are available, if required. Staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 and 3.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a suitably clean environment and cleaning routines are in place to promote hygiene. Staff regularly check bathroom areas and the provision of soap and paper towels encourages children to wash their hands after toileting. This promotes children's hygiene and minimizes the risk of cross infection. Furthermore, children's health is protected as they are excluded from the setting if unwell or parents are contacted to collect them. In the event of children needing any medication, staff are aware of the procedures of obtaining written parental consent and recording the required details. However, provision is not made for parents to sign medication records once medicine has been administered.

Children's physical health is suitably promoted as windows are left open to ensure fresh air is circulated. Children do not have access to an outdoor area but have some opportunities to develop their large motor skills through use of specific equipment including a slide, see-saw, balls and hoops. However, this is not regularly planned for and some children tend to climb on furniture. Should children need to rest or sleep, a quieter area is available. As a result, children's physical wellbeing is fostered.

Due to the short hours children attend food and drink is not provided, although parents provide drinks for children and water is available. Children are encouraged to sit down when drinking to minimise choking and very young children are cuddled by adults when milk is given. As a result, children are suitably hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a secure environment and staff are vigilant in ensuring their safety. The room is set out allowing children to reach their toys safely and toys are in good condition. Furthermore, children are well supervised at all times. Children are protected from opening doors as gates ensure they do not play near them. Doors are also locked preventing adults from accessing the room freely. In the event of an unfamiliar adult turning up to collect children, they are not allowed to go off with others until contact is made with parents. Details are also kept of who has permission to collect children and as a result children's safety is fostered.

Children are protected from hazards in the room as staff ensure toys with small pieces are made inaccessible, preventing choking, and they regularly tidy up toys to minimise tripping hazards. In the event of a child having an accident, they are suitably protected as at least half the staff team have kept their first aid knowledge up-to-date. Staff are aware of their responsibilities in recording all accidents and good practice of parents signing the accident book is in place. As a result, parents are informed of their child's wellbeing. Children benefit as they practise regular fire drills, learning how to keep themselves safe, although the fire drill log is not available as required. Furthermore, fire procedures are not displayed to inform all adults of the procedures to follow.

Vulnerable children are suitably protected as staff have suitable knowledge of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow, in contacting the line manager or social services. However, the setting does not have the boroughs up-to-date child protection guidance materials and the policy does not include details of contacting Ofsted in the event of any child protection concerns. Furthermore, details of the procedures to follow in the event of any child protection allegations being made against staff are not in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are warmly greeted into the setting and are made to feel secure. Staff greet children by talking with them and encouraging them to explore the provisions on offer. As a result, children separate positively from parents and those who do become emotional quickly settle as cuddles are given. New children are encouraged to visit with their parents so they can familiarise with the new setting and staff, safe in the knowledge that parents are close by. As a result, children's emotional wellbeing is well fostered. Children benefit as staff are very caring and clearly enjoy interacting with children.

Children have access to exploratory toys including push button and pop-up toys, small wheeled vehicles and instruments. Various construction bricks, role-play of dolls, a dolls house and home corner are also available. Staff provide opportunities for children to explore mark making activities and play dough. However, provisions for older children are minimal and are not freely accessible. As a result, they sometimes wonder around with no clear purpose or use the same provisions throughout the session. Furthermore, younger children are kept separate from older children, preventing them from interacting with each other and exploring all areas of the setting.

Children enjoy exploring small wheeled toys, pushing and rolling them along the floor. Children also enjoy using the role-play provisions choosing specific coloured cups and pretend to drink from them or offer them to others. As a result, children act out real life experiences and develop their imagination. Children enjoy colouring ready drawn pictures and also independently draw their own pictures. This promotes children's fine motor skills and eye and hand co-ordination. Children enjoy using the magnetic board and letters, lining them up and identifying the letter names and sounds. They share this information with adults and receive praise which encourages them to further share their knowledge of other letter names and sounds. Children also enjoy looking at books and sit with adults to listen to stories, showing good concentration and an enjoyment of books.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Equal opportunities are suitably promoted in the setting as children have equal access to the provisions on offer. As a result, children make independent play choices and develop their own play ideas, and gender stereotyping is minimised. Children have access to provisions which reflect positive images of culture and develop their awareness of those with additional needs. Posters, books, dolls and play people develop children's awareness of the multicultural society in which we live, helping to develop positive attitudes towards others. Children with English

as an additional language are supported in learning English through use of toys and singing. Children also benefit as staff learn key words in the child's first language, fostering their identity and self-esteem, and demonstrating that staff value children's individuality. Children are supported in learning about the cultural beliefs of others as they celebrate various festivals including Diwali and Chinese New Year. There are no children on roll with learning disabilities and/or difficulties, although the setting ensures an inclusive environment for all and liaises with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met.

Overall children are well behaved as staff interact with them well and ensure they are occupied. Children's confidence is fostered as staff praise children's efforts and have developed caring attitudes. Should children become emotional, they are sensitively cared for through cuddles and reassurance. In the event of children challenging boundaries suitable strategies are used. These include talking with children to offer explanations to develop their understanding, using distraction and staff are very calm and support children well.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. A leaflet and a display board offers information about the setting's policies and procedures, informing them of staff's responsibilities in caring for children. Good practice of providing a complaints procedure and the Ofsted's poster for parents is in place and promotes professional relationships. However, the provision of a complaints log does not reflect current practice and is not made available to parents, as required. Staff ensure the required parent and child records are in place to ensure contact can be made easily if required. Staff ensure they are well informed of children's needs as they liaise with parents when they arrive. Staff also share information about children's general wellbeing when parents collect them to ensure they are well informed of how their child has been.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are cared for by suitable adults as recruitment procedures ensure staff's suitability. Qualification requirements are adhered to and staff are suitable to care for children as they have had the required checks carried out. The setting complies with registration conditions as adult: child ratios are maintained at all times and the attendance register consolidates this. Contingency arrangements are also in place should additional staff be needed. The registration certificate is displayed during hours of operation, in line with regulations.

Staff are well deployed throughout the session and engage well with children, supporting them in play and meeting their individual needs. Organisation of the room is suitable, although opportunities for children to interact with the different age groups and explore all areas of the room are minimal. This is because the room is divided into two and as a result children are separated from each other. Staff organise the session to ensure the ages and number of children can be managed easily. As a result, children's individual needs are met, although provisions for older children to explore are few and not freely accessible.

Most of the required documentation is available and policies and procedures inform staff and parents of their responsibilities in caring for children and ensure the safe and efficient running of the setting. However, fire procedures are not displayed and the fire log is not available, the

complaints log is not in place, provision is not made for parents to sign medication records and the child protection policy does not include all the required details.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection actions and recommendations were raised to improve the outcomes for children. The setting was to ensure that at least one member of staff with current first aid training is on the premises at any one time. Most of the staff team have updated their first aid knowledge and at least one member of staff works with the children at any one time. As a result, children's safety is fostered. The setting was to also develop and implement an action plan to set out how the supervisor will achieve a level 3 qualification. The manager has a level three qualification and other staff also have a level three qualification or are working towards achieving this.

Improvements have been made to the child protection procedure for the crèche in which such information is shared with parents before admission. However, further improvements are needed to ensure that details of contacting Ofsted are included and the procedures to follow in the event of any child protection allegations being made against staff. Furthermore, up-to-date guidance materials need to be obtained. The setting now ensures that most records relating to the crèche activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times. Although, the fire drill log is not available.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- improve medication records to ensure that parents can sign entries once medication has been administered
- ensure children have regular opportunities for large physical play

- obtain the boroughs up-to-date child protection guidance materials and ensure the policy includes details of contacting Ofsted in the event of any child protection concerns. Also ensure the policy includes the procedures for any child protection allegations made against staff and are shared with all staff members
- ensure fire evacuation procedures are displayed and a log is available for inspection
- extend and make accessible the range of provisions for older children and ensure children have regular opportunities to mix together socially and explore all areas of the room
- ensure a complaints log is in place to reflect current practice and is made available to parents.

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