



Mile end Park Leisure Centre Creche and Kool Crew

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY333707
Inspection date	04 January 2007
Inspector	Christine Eglinton
Setting Address	190 Burdett Road, London, E3 4HL
Telephone number	02087094420
E-mail	carolyn.myring@gill.org
Registered person	Phoenix Fitness Centre, Greenwich Leisure 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?

Mile End Park Leisure Centre Crèche and Kool Crew play scheme was registered in May 2006. It is operated by the Greenwich Leisure Ltd organisation. The provisions operate within the Leisure Centre which is situated in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. The crèche and holiday play scheme operates within designated areas of the leisure centre, and only the holiday play scheme has access to outdoor play facilities. The crèche operates each weekday excluding Sundays throughout the year from 09:00-13:00. It provides two evening sessions on Monday from 17:00-19:00, and Thursday from 18:00-20:00. The play scheme operates throughout the year during school holidays from 08:00-18:00.

A maximum of 14 children aged from six weeks to five years may attend the crèche at any one time, and 35 children aged from five to eight years may attend the play scheme. Numbers of children attending both facilities varies on a daily basis. The crèche employs four staff who all hold appropriate early years qualifications. Play scheme staff employed meet the required qualifications or are working towards a level 2-3 qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in warm and clean environment where they benefit from good levels of cleanliness and hygiene throughout the crèche. For example, staff regularly clean and sterilize all equipment and resources, and use effective hygiene practices during nappy changing routines. From an early age children learn the importance of good personal hygiene due to staff implementing effective daily routines, such as encouraging children to wash their hands after using the toilet.

Parents are given clear information on infectious illnesses and exclusion procedures which helps to prevent the spread of contagious ailments. Appropriate ratios of staff hold a current first aid certificate, which enables children to receive appropriate care if there is an accident. However, staff have not sought written permission from parents for children to receive emergency medical treatment. This presents a risk of children not receiving swift and prompt treatment in the event of an emergency.

Staff encourage parents to provide children with healthy drinks, and there are appropriate storage procedures to ensure children are given the correct drinks and bottles. Appropriate equipment and resources such as rockers and bikes, enable children to develop their physical skills. Dancing to music and crawling through play tunnels, gives children suitable opportunities to take part in physical exercise and energetic activities, to help keep them healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to move confidently and safely around the bright and welcoming environment, where displays of children's work and appropriate posters, add to the welcoming atmosphere. Toys and resources are kept clean, and staff check to ensure all toys and resources are safe and appropriate for children's age and stage of development. Staff set out a different selection of toys and resources on a daily basis however, children are not able to self-select their own toys and equipment independently. This does not encourage them to take the initiative in their play and learning.

Staff carry out appropriate risk assessments within the crèche to minimise hazards. For instance, safety gates protect children from accessing the main entrance area, and safety caps are used to prevent children accessing exposed electric sockets. Staff use simple explanations such as reminding children not to run inside the crèche, which helps them understand about safety within the setting. However, although children in the holiday play scheme have practised the emergency escape plan, children in the crèche have not had the same opportunity. This does not help all the children learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely.

Procedures for identifying children and parents collecting their child, and systems for managing access for users and visitors to the crèche, are not being effectively used. This potentially compromises children's safety. Staff have appropriate understanding of child protection issues

and know how to proceed if they have concerns about a child in their care. This supports children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children generally arrive happy and confident and staff offer good support which help children to quickly settle. Children are very keen for staff to join them in their play and they have formed close relationships with the staff. This enables children to form close caring relationships outside the home and helps to promote healthy dependence and independence. Young children seek support from staff which indicates that trusting relationships have been formed. Staff sit closely with babies during their play and echo the sounds babies make, which encourages them to be confident and competent language users.

Staff provide young children with suitable opportunities of learning through movement, and active interaction with their environment. For example, they use peek-a-boo games with babies which help them connect actions and ideas. Children enjoy pretending to drink cups of tea with staff, and are able to represent their ideas by drawing, sticking, and painting. However, young children are not given the opportunity of exploring natural play materials, and are not offered frequent opportunities to experience mess making and sensory exploration through using appropriate materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Visual resources within the crèche such as welcome posters in different community languages, and posters showing different families, help children to develop an understanding of diversity. Children are helped to become aware of their own, and other cultures, through a range of resources and planned activities. For example, children have made different types of cards when celebrating a variety of cultural festivals. This helps children to learn to accept differences, although few resources reflect disability.

Staff use lots of praise and encouragement which help children to develop a positive self-image. Staff make expectations of behaviour clear, and give reasons for request which ensures children understand why certain behaviour is not acceptable. Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive, and they are given a crèche fact sheet which details all relevant information about the setting. Parents and carers are able to express their views by completing a comment card which is then used by the centre, to try and improve the service. For instance, the crèche now offer longer opening times to accommodate parents' wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Staff deployment is effective and ensures children are appropriately supervised at all times. Children benefit from appropriate adult support who enjoy their company. This helps them to

feel secure and confident. The sessions are well-planned allowing children time for quiet and active play. The crèche meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Staff are encouraged to undertake relevant training, which supports staff in their role and ensures they have the latest, and most relevant information available. Sound recruitment procedures means that children benefit from being cared for by suitable and experienced staff. Most of the mandatory records are in place however, staff are not using consistent procedures to ensure that all appropriate documentation relating to the children, is completed prior to children attending the facility. This does not guarantee that staff are kept fully aware of children's individual needs to enable them to promote the welfare and care of the children.

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 the 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):

- seek appropriate consent from parents for children to receive emergency medical treatment
- increase opportunities for mess making and sensory exploration for young children by using the Birth to three framework
- ensure all appropriate documentation is completed prior to children attending the facility
- improve collection procedures and management of access into the premises.

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