

# Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY330755
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 June 2007
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<b>Registered person</b>	Greenwich Leisure Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre crèche, Play and Learn was registered in 2006 and is located in the NW3 area of Camden. It is one of a number of crèches operated by Greenwich Leisure Limited. The crèche room is on the first floor of the leisure centre and is for the exclusive use of centre users. The crèche which operates throughout the year has core hours of 09.00 - 15.00 on Monday - Friday and 09.00 - 13.00 at weekends. On some days evening sessions are offered. Places for the crèche are mostly booked in advance. Children may stay no longer than two hours and parents must remain on the premises at all times. The number of children on roll varies according to how many people are using the centre facilities, however, no more than 12 children attend the crèche at any one time. The majority of staff have a childcare qualification.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, bright room designated for their sole use. The premises are well maintained with good levels of hygiene. There are child sized toilet facilities with an integral nappy changing area, and to encourage children, staff have put up photos of hand washing

and drying and flushing the toilet. There is a fully stocked first aid box available and two members of staff have completed first aid training. There is a book for recording any accidents that may occur, however due to the layout of the pages, this is not easy to understand.

Procedures in place to promote children's health and well-being include a sick children's policy, obtaining medical treatment in an emergency and medication administration.

Children are not provided with refreshments as the policy is that no food is allowed in the crèche. Fresh drinking water is always available and parents may leave a drink for their child if they wish.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children use the self contained premises which are organised to provide space for them to play safely and comfortably. Some specific areas have been created including an arts and crafts table and a baby section where there are soft floor mats.

Children remain within the crèche rooms which are checked by staff each day for any potential hazards, and there is a security system in place to prevent unauthorised entry into the crèche. The small tables and chairs allow children to sit comfortably at activities and there is a range of well maintained play equipment for them to use.

The overall welfare of children is safeguarded. Written child protection procedures are in place and staff understand the action they have to take if they identify any issues. Parents are made aware that staff have a responsibility to report any concerns to the local authority.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

The children present in the crèche are happy and involved in their play. One arrives and immediately goes to sit on the small soft rocker. A member of staff sits on the floor with two other children and they have fun rolling different sized balls between them. A baby sits securely and comfortably in a foam ring watching the others at play. A selection of plastic animals occupies two children who line them up around the table chatting to the member of staff who sits with them. There is a selection of resources including a play house which the children have fun going in and out of, and they enjoy listening to a story and using drawing materials. Staff arrange toys to be easily accessible for example a selection of small cars and animals are on a mat on the floor and books are available on the table. However, the lack of low storage within the crèche room means children cannot select their own play materials. Children have limited opportunities for messy play, as resources such as play dough are not always replaced promptly when they run out.

The children are confident in their relationships with the staff who chat with them giving support and praising the children for their efforts.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children attend the crèche for various sessions while their parents use the leisure facilities. Cards recording information about each child and are stored in file boxes making them easy to

access, however, not all the required details are in place. Staff inform parents about what their child has done in the crèche when they talk to them as the child leaves.

Prospective users are welcomed and staff tell them about how the group operates. Information is also shared through the use of a notice board, and an information leaflet outlining key policies and procedures sets out what parents can expect from the service.

The children do activities linked to different festivals and a world map with greetings written in the children's first language is displayed.

Staff provide positive role models for the children when they speak quietly. The children respond in a positive way to the adults who deal with any upsets by talking to the child and engaging them in an activity. Written procedures regarding behaviour management are in place, and any difficulty is discussed with the parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the premises allows children to move freely around the playroom which provides them with adequate safe space to play in. Staff are aware of the required adult to child ratios and adjust the numbers of children attending to ensure these are always met. All the staff employed are checked for their suitability to work with young children, however the required staff details are not available which is a breach of regulation.

Written policies and procedures are in place to guide staff and the majority of the required records are in place although there are some minor omissions.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the following actions were made to help the provider develop their safety practice and meet the requirements: to implement a system to prevent unauthorised entry into, or exit from, the crèche; improve the registration system to ensure that times children attend are recorded and that the information about children can be quickly accessed; and to ensure that the procedures for the administration of medication are followed.

Children benefit from the improved safety systems that are now in place. A high level lock has been fitted to the door leading into the crèche and a gate is in place so children cannot be out of sight around the corner in the lobby area of the crèche. Daily registers are completed in full with children's first names and surnames, the times of entry time and leaving. There are also record cards in index boxes with children's details, however not all of these are fully completed. The medication book has been changed, it now has to be signed by the parent or guardian when they leave the medicine, so they give their permission for staff to administer the medication.

## **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):

- develop the system for recording accidents so the information is clear and easy to understand
- provide more opportunities for children to engage in messy play
- ensure all the required details are recorded on the registration cards
- have the required information about staff available in the creche

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)