

# Crazy Crocs Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 109154

**Inspection date** 31 May 2007

**Inspector** Rachel Edwards

**Setting Address** Stratton Community Leisure Centre, Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret,  
Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 4JY

**Telephone number** 01793 825525

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Crazy Crocs Holiday Playscheme

**Type of inspection** Childcare

**Type of care** Out of School 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](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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Crazy Crocs holiday play scheme was registered in 1995. It operates from a sports hall and community rooms, within the community/sports centre in Stratton, Swindon. It serves the local area. Children, with parents' permission, are regularly taken to the adjacent playing fields to enjoy outdoor play. The group opens five days per week every school holiday. Sessions are from 08:45 until 15:00.

The setting is registered to care for no more than 60 children from four to under eight years. There are currently 76 children on roll, of whom 43 are aged under eight. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with additional needs.

Eight staff work on a sessional basis with the children, seven of whom have relevant childcare qualifications. In addition several centre staff work part-time with the children, they do not hold childcare qualifications but have undergone all the relevant checks.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is generally well promoted whilst they are at the holiday play scheme. The premises and equipment are clean and well maintained and children who are unwell are not cared for. Children are reminded by staff and written notices that they must wash their hands before eating and after the toilet but they do not always remember to do this before eating snacks. There are staff trained in first aid at every session and all accidents are promptly recorded and parents are informed when they collect their children. There are very safe and effective procedures for storing and administering any medication that may be needed.

Children are physically active throughout the day. They enthusiastically choose which sports or team games they would like to play and are well supported by staff who gently encourage less confident children to join in. During these times, they are introduced to a variety of sports and develop new skills, which encourage them to adopt an active lifestyle. There are plenty of opportunities for rest and quieter activities, when children are encouraged to have drink, from their own bottles or from water which is always available. Children enjoy playing outside in the fresh air most days, when staff accompany them to the adjacent park and play area.

Children may choose to bring a packed lunch or buy a hot or cold meal from the centre, where healthy options are available. Children sit together for a mid morning snack, which they may bring themselves or buy from the centre's vending machines. However, only crisps, chocolate and cereal bars are available, which are high in sugar and fat. Children with special dietary needs or allergies are accommodated. For example, care is taken in choosing cooking activities to ensure that ingredients do not pose a risk to children with allergies.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a welcoming and generally safe environment. They use a wide range of high quality equipment that appears to be well maintained. They are able to choose from the selection of activities available each day and the play leader is in the process of making a pictorial catalogue of all the toys available so that children can freely choose what they would like to play with.

Staff recognise the value of regular and thorough risk assessments, which they use to identify and take action to reduce most hazards to children. Children are very well supervised at all times and when necessary, grouped to help keep them safe. For example, for more boisterous activities, such as the bouncy castle, children are taken in small groups of similar aged children. Specialist coaches are used for equipment such as the trampoline, to ensure children's safety. Children are always accompanied by staff when using toilets in areas also used by the public. However, the security of the premises poses a risk to children. The door from the playroom to the kitchen has a security lock which is checked each morning before children arrive. This door was found to be unlocked for part of the session, so that children could have wandered into areas that put them at risk of injury. Also the doors to the rest of the centre are not locked, creating a risk of children wandering off and visitors entering unannounced. The centre is currently investigating the use of alarms to improve security.

Staff all receive child protection training and are aware of their responsibility regarding safeguarding children. They have a good knowledge of the agreed procedures and would be able to act in the children's best interest if they had concerns. However, they do not have written procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the holiday club. They come from a wide catchment area and many do not know anyone when they first start. They soon make friends and the very good relationships that are evident between children and staff are a real strength of the group. For example, a new child who is hesitant at first is soon suggesting they should have a karaoke session after lunch. The daily routine is well planned so that there is a wide range of activities available for children to choose from. Children are encouraged to make suggestions for other activities they would enjoy, confident that their views will be listened to by the staff.

Children play together very co-operatively, whether that be within team games, building a marble run or working together to make a wall display on a space theme. Cooking activities are always popular and are regularly organised. Although children are encouraged to be physically active, there is always a quieter alternative available. Large foam floor mats make a comfortable area for watching television, reading books or building with the good selection of construction materials. Overall there is a relaxed atmosphere, where staff and children chat together and children are largely able to follow their own interests. There is a very good balance between child and adult led activities and between physical and quieter activities. Most days children have the opportunity to play outside in the nearby park, however, staff do not make full use of this area to add variety to the children's day, for example, by taking smaller groups of children out at a time.

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

The provision is good.

All children, including those with additional needs, are welcome at this friendly holiday play scheme. Parents register beforehand and staff ensure they are made aware of any special requirements, such as dietary needs, so that they can be accommodated. Where children need additional support, the provider endeavours to provide this and there is a member of staff who has received training in working with children with special needs. The high staff ratio of adults to children means that children are well supervised at all times and receive plenty of individual attention, for example, whilst learning to play chess. Children are encouraged to choose which activities they would like to take part in and may bring in DVDs from home to watch as a group. There are some opportunities for children to learn about other cultures, for example, during activities themed 'around the world' but there are limited resources or images that promote diversity and help children value differences and similarities between themselves and others.

Children behave very well. Many activities encourage and develop team work and involve children playing co-operatively. Staff build children's confidence and self-esteem by using plenty of praise and encouragement. They treat children with respect and offer clear and consistent guidance on how to behave and children respond well to this.

Parents receive good information about most aspects of the care provided, for example through a notice board, parents' pack and regular newsletters. Parents speak highly of the provision and the fact that their children enjoy the range of activities on offer. A complaints procedure gives details of how to raise any concerns but does not fully comply with Children Act regulations.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's health, safety and welfare are promoted by the good organisation of this setting. The manager provides clear, experienced and positive leadership to the staff. There are robust systems in place to ensure suitable and qualified staff are employed. Staff appraisals help support staff's professional development and they are encouraged to attend relevant training. Staff are well deployed to meet children's needs and all are clear about their roles and responsibilities.

All the required documents and records are in place and available for inspection, although the complaints procedure lacks some necessary detail. Records are stored confidentially and retained for the required period. The group are aware of their responsibility to inform Ofsted of significant factors affecting the provision of care.

There is a strong commitment to continuing improvement. The success of new activities is evaluated and changes made when necessary. Very good use is made of the self assessment forms and the group have identified their strengths and areas for development. For example, they have plans in progress to seek children's views on the provision. The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Following the last care inspection no recommendations to improve the care were raised, although it was noted that written guidance for staff about the supervision of children was not clear and sufficiently detailed. There is now an effective operational plan in place with a detailed induction procedure for staff and guidance on the effective deployment of staff.

## **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 good. 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 the complaints procedure fully complies with Children Act regulations in relation to timescales for reporting to parents and that the child protection procedure includes what to do in the event of an allegation against a member of staff
- ensure children cannot wander into unsafe areas and that unannounced visitors cannot enter the setting

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)