

# Escape from Parents

Inspection report for early years provision

---

**Unique Reference Number** 135987  
**Inspection date** 04 June 2007  
**Inspector** Karen Elizabeth Screen

**Setting Address** Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, Bradley Stoke Way, Bradley Stoke, Bradley Stoke, South Glos, BS32 8EF

**Telephone number** 01454 867050

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Escape From Parents

**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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Escape from Parents holiday playscheme opened in 2000. It operates from within the Leisure Centre at Bradley Stoke, on the outskirts of Bristol. The playscheme serves the local area. They open during the school holidays for pre-booked sessions between 09:00 and 15:30 (days vary). Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 650 children on roll aged between four and 11 years old. They currently support a number of children with learning difficulties/disabilities. Sixteen members of staff work directly with the children. The manager and two other members of staff hold relevant childcare/playwork qualifications.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is compromised because staff do not always keep records of accidents to children. This is a breach of regulation. As a result, their well-being is not supported. Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment where they learn about personal hygiene and to care for themselves and their environment. Younger children are supported by staff who gently remind them to follow good personal hygiene routines, such as washing hands after visiting

the toilet, and before eating. Suitable arrangements are in place to care for children if they become ill during the session, and nearly all staff hold current first aid qualifications.

Many parents choose to provide their children with a prepared lunch box. They also have the option of paying for a hot meal, which is prepared by the café located within the leisure centre. Snacks sourced from the café are not always healthy and nutritious. For example, on the day of the inspection, the children are only offered a chocolate biscuit and orange squash for their mid-morning snack.

Children benefit from a good range of physical activities, such as team games of netball, hockey and rounders. Most children take part in these activities with great enthusiasm. However, an alternative activity is not routinely provided.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Although entry to the setting is monitored when parents deliver and collect their children; children are not adequately protected from the dangers posed by unvetted adults using the play space as a thoroughfare to their sports class. All staff undertake induction training which includes health and safety issues. However, children are at risk of accidents because staff do not take appropriate action to minimise the risks posed by children wearing 'roller shoes'. Some positive steps are taken to promote children's safety. General safety rules are explained to children at the beginning of each session, and also rehearsed with any children who arrive late. Fire drills are held each week to ensure that all children and adults are aware of emergency evacuation procedures.

Staff are aware of the possible signs of children at risk and of their responsibility to report their concerns for a child's welfare. However, they are unaware that their child protection statement should be based on those laid out in the booklet 'What To Do If You Are Worried A Child Is Being Abused'; and of their responsibility to comply with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. As a result, staff are not able to fully protect children; therefore children's safety is at risk.

The purpose-built sports facilities are clean, and well maintained. Space is ample for the numbers of children attending. Children have access to a large sports hall, three general purpose rooms, a squash court, dance studio and an adventure play room. Children's work is not yet displayed to decorate and help create a child-friendly environment. Sports activities are well resourced with a good range of suitably maintained equipment.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff greet children individually as they arrive. Children are happy and keen to attend. They have a sense of belonging and return with their siblings to the playscheme year after year. Children enjoy affectionate relationships with staff and other children. For example, a girl puts her arms around the neck of a member of staff and gives her a hug. Children learn to take turns and to cooperate very well with others. For example, an older child helps a younger child to mix paint to her preferred colour. Children benefit from staff who are fully involved in the activities, such as painting, netball, and the game 'lifeguards and sharks'.

Children thoroughly enjoy the planned craft activity. They have been asked to make pictures to show what 'Girl Heaven', the title of the day's planned theme, means to them. They deliver some very individual interpretations, which are obviously highly valued by the staff. Few opportunities are offered for children to influence the choice of resources, activities and experiences provided. There is no provision made for imaginary play, such as dressing up and making dens. In addition, there is no provision for children who do not want to be involved in the particular activity on offer. For example, a child who did not want to be involved in the sports activity stood by the side of a staff member. Later, several girls who also did not want to be involved, were offered the 'choice' of joining in or sitting quietly at the side of the hall. The management recognise that improving variety and choice of provision is an area they can easily address, and have a positive attitude to improving provision.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Staff lack knowledge and understanding of the changes to regulations, relating to complaints and to notifying parents. This is a breach of regulation. As a result, the playscheme is not fulfilling their duty to keep parents informed. In addition, parents receive little information about the playscheme when they register their children. Further, information, such as policies and procedures, is not made easily available to them, but kept in the leisure centre office. This means that parents are not clearly informed of the arrangements for the care of their children. Parents value the staff's commitment to providing a happy environment.

Staff provide good role models through their relaxed and polite manner and have reasonable and realistic expectations of children's behaviour. They set, but do not always maintain clear and consistent limits. For example, children respond promptly to guidance about conduct and boundaries, such as not rolling on the wheels fitted in the heels of their 'roller shoes', but quickly revert to their previous behaviour.

Children are valued in their own right, but their understanding of diversity is not sufficiently well fostered because resources reflecting positive images of equality and respect, are not in use. The playscheme offers a choice of themed days, some aimed at both boys and girls, and others for boys and girls to attend separately.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The provision does not meet the needs of the children for whom it provides. Children's safety and well-being are compromised by poor organisation which has resulted in breaches of regulations. The registered person has failed to notify Ofsted of a change of manager. This is a breach of regulation. As a result, children are at risk as a consequence of Ofsted's inability to make checks of suitability. In addition, Ofsted have not been notified of the registered person's change of address. This is a breach of regulation, because as in the case of the change in manager, the registered person is required to inform Ofsted of any significant changes or events. Further, the management have failed to display the registration certificate. It is a condition of registration that it is displayed, as children may be at risk as a result of parents inability to check registration status and conditions.

Insufficient numbers of staff hold the necessary qualifications or experience needed to meet children's needs effectively. The manager of the playscheme is suitably qualified. However,

although all staff undertake a brief induction programme which includes health and safety and child protection awareness, the requirement for at least half of all staff to be qualified to Level 2 is not being met. In addition, the playscheme does not have adequate systems in place to safeguard children, and to keep parents abreast of issues relating to the care of their children.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Although the management of the playscheme are aware of the previous recommendation and actions raised at the last inspection, there has been no improvement in the measures taken to protect children's health, or to promote their development.

Although no medicines have been administered since the last inspection, there are no dedicated forms available to record medication administered to children attending the holiday playscheme. In addition, training has not been sought for staff to support children to administer medicines requiring technical or medical knowledge. Planning has not been developed to provide a range of options for children's play, and to enable children to make decisions and choices about their play and learning.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters; with particular reference to the appointment of a new manager, and a change of address of the registered person.
- ensure that the registration certificate is displayed at all times
- improve knowledge of, and develop systems for the recording of complaints in line with regulations; and make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
- develop and implement an action plan, detailing how at least half of all staff working directly with the children will hold a level 2 qualification

- assess the risks to children in relation to unvetted adults using the play space as a thoroughfare, and to children wearing unsuitable foot wear; and take action to minimise these
- keep records of all accidents to children
- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)