

Funky Factory

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 149131

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Inspector Lisa Paisley

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Registered person Creating Leisure Ltd

Type of inspection Childcare

Type of care Full day 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.

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?

Funky Factory is run by Creating Leisure Limited. It opened in 1996 and operates from a large second floor room at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, Essex. A maximum of 40 children may attend the provision at any one time. The provision is open each weekday from 09.15 to 12.15 each weekday, sessions are available for children under two and full day-care is available for children aged over two years. The holiday scheme is open from 08.30 to 15.45 during school holidays. All children share supervised access to the centre's sport and outdoor facilities.

There are currently 85 children aged from birth to under eight years on roll. Children come from the local area. The provision currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The provision employs five staff. Four of the staff, including the manager hold an appropriate early years qualification. One staff member is currently attending training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in an environment where suitable hygiene practices are sufficiently maintained. Children learn about hygiene routines through washing their hands appropriately such as after using the toilet and before eating snacks. Some staff are first aid trained and first aid box is adequately equipped ensuring children receive good care and attendance in the event of an accident or administering medication.

Fresh drinking water and is available throughout the session and families are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks. Staff maintain adequate written records for each child to ensure their individual health needs are met.

Children have secure opportunities to engage in physical activities such as the large indoor soft play area where children enjoy jumping and climbing in and out of the pool ball. Staff support young children's physical development through the range of equipment that they provide and closely supervising babies. Children use a range of tools and equipment to promote their fine hands skills, for example, puzzles and drawing. As a result, children are making satisfactory progress in all aspects of physical development and their skills are challenged appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children benefit from using a range of toys and play equipment which are maintained to an adequate standard. They select their own play resources which are appropriate to their ages and stages of development. Resources and play equipment are organised at child height, allowing children to self-select promoting their independence and choice. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through gentle reminders from staff such as tidying away toys and practising regular fire drills to ensure they know how to evacuate the building quickly and safely in the event of an emergency.

Formal risk assessments are in place to ensure most risks to children are minimised, for example, the radiators are protected, low level sockets are in place and the front door is secure. However, the doors leading to the balcony and the balcony area are not safe resulting in a potential hazard for children. Staff are suitably vigilant with regards to arrival and departure procedures ensuring the transition from parent and carer to staff is effective.

Children are suitably protected by staff who have a sound awareness of child protection procedures and know how to put these into practice to safeguard children's welfare. The provision have obtained information regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Parents are informed of the provision's responsibility regarding child protection reassuring parents of their child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally settled in the warm and welcoming environment. They enjoy a suitable range of planned and spontaneous activities, for example, playing with the dried pasta, cars and garage. Children develop confidence and self-esteem as staff show interest in what they

do and say by talking and listening to them, asking questions and offering suggestions. They become independent as they make choices about their play and self select toys. The provision have obtained the 'Birth to three matters' framework and they have taken positive steps to implement the framework into planning activities for younger children.

Children attending the holiday scheme are provided with a suitable range of activities, for example, cooking, painting, puzzles, songs and games. There is a positive emphasis on outdoor activities during the warmer weather where children play hockey, football, dodge ball and races promoting physical exercise and team games in older children.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem through the very good relationships they have with the staff and other family members. Children look to the staff for reassurance, help and assistance and they respond in a warm, caring and enthusiastic manner. Children distinguish between right and wrong as the staff uses a suitable range of appropriate and sensitive strategies for managing children's behaviour. Children receive regular praise and encouragement developing their self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

All children are warmly welcomed into the provision which helps them to feel happy and secure. Children benefit from having access to a range of play resources which promote positive images of diversity and from participating in activities which promote their awareness of different festivals and cultures. For example, Shrove Tuesday, Ramadan, Chinese New Year, Christmas and Remembrance Sunday. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents in detail. Any special requirements or information are discussed and appropriate action is taken to support children with learning disabilities or disabilities. The provision does not currently have a named Special Educational Needs worker (SENCO), however, they have access to support in the event of children attending whom require additional support.

Children are suitably behaved as staff set basic boundaries, however, staff lack sufficient knowledge and understanding in supporting children with a range of challenging behaviours. As a result inappropriate action may be taken in the event of an incident comprising children's welfare. They are supported by staff who praise and encourage children and they learn to share play equipment with guidance from the staff.

Children benefit from the secure and flexible working relationships that the staff has with the parents. There is sufficient written and verbal communication in place which contributes to children's continuity of care. However, the complaints procedure has not been updated to reflect changes with regard to the National Standards Addendum and a complaint log is not available for parents to see. As a result inappropriate action may be taken when dealing with a complaint. Parents have access to relevant information about their practice, reports, policies and guidance.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are generally comfortable and settled as the staff suitably organise the provision to accommodate children's individual needs and play experiences. Children are appropriately supervised ensuring that their individual needs are met and they enjoy a range of play activities and experiences. The provision currently employ a small number of staff and they have temporary

staff during the school holidays to work with older children. However, staff are not fully aware of their role and responsibilities which potentially comprises children's welfare.

Documentation and records including the operational plan are in place, however, policies and procedures require updating to ensure that they consistently meet the National Standards. As a result Ofsted have not been fully informed about incidents that have occurred within the setting. Information about the provision is displayed on the notice board and confidentiality is maintained at all times.

Overall children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provision agreed; to update the action plan for staff training to include training regarding the care of children aged under three years, ensure that the children's full names are included on the register, ensure that rooms used for the out of school scheme are for the sole use of the facility during the hours of operation and update the risk assessment on the premises identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks. (This refers to the fan and the safety gate in the setting). Staff have attended appropriate training with regards to children under three, however, staff have left and therefore the provision will have to review the action plan when taking on new staff, children's full names are now accurately recorded on the attendance register, children using the holiday scheme now sole use of the premises during operational hours and steps have been taken to remove the fan from the setting so that it is not a risk to children. As result some improvements have been made with regard to children's safety and documentation, however, further improvement is required.

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

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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:

- minimise potential risks to children in relation to the doors to the balcony and guarding on the balcony

- develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and keep a record of complaints relating to the national standards and any action taken
- review and update induction procedures and staff appraisals to ensure staff have a clear understanding of the provision and their role and responsibilities
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations in relation to national standards 5,6,8,10,11,12 & 14
- notify Ofsted of any significant incidents

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