



Inbetweeners - Pool Viewing Room

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY285683
Inspection date	01 June 2005
Inspector	Linda Priest
Setting Address	Dyrons Leisure Centre, Highweek Road, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2SH
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Registered person	Teignbridge District Council
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.

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?

'Inbetweeners' is a local authority run holiday club, which operates in the poolside viewing room at Dyrons Leisure Centre in Newton Abbot. It provides care for up to 24 children aged from 6 to 8 years old at any one time. The club is open from 09.00 to 16.00, Monday to Friday, during school holidays only. Additional sessions are available before and after the main holiday club times from 08:00 to 09:00 and 16:00 to 17:00 hours, when older children join the Inbetweeners. Children visit a local sports hall everyday for more energetic activities and have a swimming session in the pool each morning. The club supports children with special needs.

There is a designated supervisor for the Inbetweeners who is qualified to level three in childcare. Four other staff work regularly at this club and hold appropriate child care qualifications to level two or three. The club is line managed by a senior manager within the leisure centre.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a good range of healthy exercise activities as part of the daily organisation of the club. They all go swimming in the morning and can choose more energetic activities organised in the afternoon at the local sports hall.

All children bring their own packed lunch and snacks. In this way parents can ensure their child's individual dietary needs and preferences are met. Children's lunch boxes are checked carefully by staff to identify foods needing to go in the fridge for safe and healthy storage. Information is not given to parents advising them about the safe storage of foods for packed lunches. Further important information to ensure children's diets or allergies are known and met is not requested as part of the registration form. Children have good access to regular drinks to prevent dehydration, especially when taking part in energetic activities.

Children are not actively encouraged in good hygiene routines, for example: staff asked children if they had washed their hands but did not check or encourage them to do so, tables are not cleaned with anti-bacterial products and plates and cups are not provided at lunch times.

Children's health needs are met through basic information on registration forms and discussion with parents. Only one parent's signature is obtained on administration forms for medication. There is no parent's countersignature on these forms which could lead to confusion and lack of understanding about medicines given to the child in the setting. Sufficient staff are trained in first aid to provide appropriate care for children in an emergency. Children with specific health care needs are carefully monitored by staff with good training in meeting these needs, for example severe allergies which may require administration via an epi-pen.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is suitably considered and secured in some areas within the setting, but inconsistent in others. For example, a fire blanket is in place and some fire drills do occur, but these are infrequent and no fire drill procedures are displayed in the room used. The fire exit has a high catch that can sensibly stop children from leaving via this door, but the main door used has no alarm or restriction to stop children leaving the room unsupervised. As a result, children's safety is reliant on staff supervision and children telling staff they are leaving the room to use the adjacent toilet. The visitors' book is not used effectively to further protect children from

unknown people entering the setting.

The room used by the children in the leisure centre can become very hot, but large fans are used to try and keep the temperature at a suitable level for children to play.

When walking to the nearby sports hall children are kept safe by wearing high visibility vests, taking the safest route and good staff supervision.

The equipment available for children to enjoy during activity sessions is checked for safety and suitable and sufficient in quantity to meet the interests and needs of all ages attending.

Children are effectively protected from harm by the staff's sound knowledge and understanding of child protection. Staff have received good training in this aspect of care and are aware of the correct procedures for reporting concerns through the comprehensive policy in place. Additional policies to guide staff practice in providing safe care for children include a health and safety policy and risk assessments, but these are either not available on site or not shared effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and like coming to the Inbetweeners holiday club. Many particularly relish the opportunity of a daily swim in the morning and bouncing on the large air filled castle in the afternoons. In addition to the sports and games, children take part in a very wide variety of other activities, including those provided from visiting groups such as a theatre workshop and mask making sessions. They have spent time producing a wide range of art and craft items that are taken home with great pride and a good sense of achievement. Every child is encouraged to express their own imaginative ideas and individuality through their art and craft work, which is well supported by the enthusiasm of the staff. For example children all made a picture frame but decorated it in their own individual and imaginative way using the various different items provided for this purpose.

There are good opportunities for children to relax at appropriate times during the day, with other times when they can choose from a range of free play toys and games. Through the wide and interesting activities available and good relationships and support of staff, children's enthusiasm and motivation is high and many attend this club for several holidays. Children happily confirmed their enjoyment of the Inbetweeners holiday club.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Every child is fully included in all activities provided at the holiday club. Additional support is available to ensure the full inclusion of children who may need extra staffing or adapted activities. On occasions parents are encouraged to help their child take part, for example in the swimming sessions. There is disabled access to the

building and a disabled toilet available for any child who may need these facilities. In this way Inbetweeners is able to offer a fully integrated holiday club.

All children are treated equally. They are actively encouraged to respect and understand more about different cultures. For example, children have started looking at Africa as part of their topic for the week and enjoyed meeting someone from France who came in to share her language and culture.

There is a relaxed and friendly approach adopted by staff within this setting and as a result children have developed warm and comfortable relationships with both the staff and each other. Their behaviour is often well managed, for example: staff very successfully organised children to tidy up for lunch by making it into a game, children's achievements and good behaviour is rewarded with praise and certificates and staff set good role models for polite and respectful behaviour. Children's behaviour is not as well managed when there is less structure and staff supervision, for example on the bouncy castle and when children are playing freely between activities and routines.

Parents of children attending Inbetweeners are provided with basic information about the care provided for their child. The setting does not obtain all the information required to guide staff in meeting each child's individual needs, for example: there is no procedure to make a complaint to Ofsted and only basic information about the setting is available. Registration forms only request brief information from parents, which does not include cultural or religious observances.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are suitably organised with a good range of appropriate and interesting daily activities planned and incorporated into the longer term projects to cover the whole holiday period.

Children are cared for by sufficient and suitably qualified staff who share ideas, plan activities for the children and support each other through a clear management structure. There have been numerous staff changes that have disrupted the administrative processes, but not adversely affected the daily care of the children. As a result, procedures for notification of staff changes, appropriate vetting and the thorough knowledge and understanding of Ofsted standards is currently at a very basic level.

Children's care provision is generally recorded appropriately and basic information is requested to guide staff knowledge and understanding of their individual needs. Parents are given limited, formal information, with some records incomplete and fuller details about the care provided for their child within the setting not in place.

The setting is able to meet the needs of the range of children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- actively encourage good hygiene routines with children and within the setting e.g. washing hands, cleaning tables.
- keep children safe from fire through the display and practising of fire drill procedures.
- make sure children are safe within the building and not able to leave the premises unsupervised e.g. risk assessments undertaken and shared, visitors book in place and used effectively.
- exchange appropriate information with parents to support the care provided to children e.g. parent's signature to acknowledge medicine given, complaints procedure, advice for packed lunches, basic information about the setting, access to policies and procedures, fuller information requested for completion of registration forms by parents.
- update staff knowledge and understanding of Ofsted procedures and requirements e.g. information about staff changes for appropriate vetting to be completed, new staff's knowledge and understanding of the National Standards for Out of School Care.

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