

Herons Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120068
Inspection date	23 July 2007
Inspector	Maureen Croxford
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Registered person	D.C. Leisure Management Ltd.
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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?

Herons Crèche opened in 1998. It operates from a purpose built room within Herons Fitness and Swimming Centre situated in Haslemere. The crèche serves the town of Haslemere and many of the surrounding towns and villages.

There are approximately 150 children from six weeks to under five years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions whilst their parent or guardian participates in the sporting activities on offer at the centre. Parents and guardians are required to remain on site. The Crèche opens 52 weeks of the year and sessions run from 09.30 - 13.30 Monday to Friday and 09.30 - 11.25 on Saturdays.

Five members of staff work with the children. Of these three members of staff has a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a mentor from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The premises and equipment are very clean and provide a warm and welcoming environment for children and parents. Children are beginning to follow good personal hygiene routines and recognise the importance of this, for example, washing their hands after using the toilet. Children are protected as most members of staff hold a current first aid certificate.

Children develop a positive attitude to exercise and benefit from physical activities both outside and in a squash court. They enjoy peddling and scooting on sit-and-ride toys in the outside area. Children are developing good spatial awareness as they participate in a very good range of planned activities and move around the room safely. Staff have a very good understanding of how children develop and learn, and the well-planned environment contributes to their good health and physical development. Children show confidence, using tools such as crayons and glue sticks, and have a real sense of achievement such as proudly showing parents their artwork.

Drinks are provided by parents and are regularly offered to children. These are clearly labelled. No food is offered as the children only stay in the provision for short periods. Children's dietary needs are recorded. Staff plan activities that promote a positive lifestyle and pictures of healthy foods are displayed around the provision.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are very safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location. The environment has been made welcoming and friendly to children and parents, and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities, which promote the children's development. Children's artwork is attractively displayed around the room. A wide range of suitable equipment and materials are available to provide stimulating activities and play opportunities for the children. These are appropriate for the ages and individual developmental needs of the children.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe in the crèche as staff help them to understand why rules are necessary, such as reminding them to take care around younger children. Staff are aware of potential hazards and are able to reduce risks both inside and outdoors to ensure that children are kept safe.

Good security systems are in place, which contribute to the children's safety in the provision, for example, children, parents and staff are signed in and out. However, visitors are not always asked to sign the visitor's record. Appropriate procedures are in place to ensure the safe evacuation of the building and regular fire drills are held.

Children are well protected as most staff have attended safe guarding children training and have a good understanding of procedures and issues concerning confidentiality. A written statement is in place clearly stating the responsibilities of the staff with regard to the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff plan a suitable range of stimulating activities and play opportunities, and provide resources, which are appropriate to the ages and abilities of the children attending. Children are interested in their activities and enjoy attending the provision.

Children build warm relationships with all staff who know them well and offer them comfort and encouragement when appropriate. They are relaxed and interact well with adults, including conversation and good eye contact. Staff encourage children to be confident, independent and develop their self esteem, for example, taking themselves to the toilet and accessing their own resources.

Children play well together and develop very good relationships with staff who are sensitive to their needs. They are learning to co-operate during play, taking turns and negotiating which equipment they wish to use. Most activities are easily accessible to children, which enables them to make choices about their play. Staff help children to learn what is right and wrong.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are valued and respected as individuals by staff. The provision has a range of resources, which reflects diversity in different cultures and genders. Evidence suggests that procedures are in place to support children with individual needs and ensure that all children are included in the activities.

Children are beginning to understand that the provision has rules because staff encourage and promote positive behaviour. Staff help children understand why some behaviour is not appropriate. The provision has a written statement on behaviour management, which states the methods used. Staff fully understand and follow the policy and procedures, which are discussed with parents.

Children benefit as the partnership with parents and carers is good. They are happy and settle well because staff have a good knowledge of their daily routines. A complaints procedure is available to both staff and parents, which includes the address and telephone number of the regulator. Parents are given good quality information about the provision and staff take time to share information through discussion. Daily feedback and sharing of information is encouraged particularly if there are any significant events at home that may be upsetting or confusing for the child.

This positive approach fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Staff are deployed effectively within the premises to ensure the welfare, safety and development of children. A named deputy is able to take charge in the absence of the manager. Staff have a very clear understanding of what is expected of them on a daily basis, which helps to promote positive outcomes for children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Children benefit from consistent staff working with them who understand their routines well. This enables children to feel safe and secure, and develop strong relationships. The implementation of the provision's policies and procedures, staff rotas and deployment, ongoing training contributes to children's health, safety and well-being. Three members of staff are appropriately qualified and their knowledge of child development is good. All staff have experience of working with young children. Most staff hold first aid certificates. The provision has an induction programme in place for new staff which includes health and safety and safe guarding children training.

All records, policies and procedures, which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, are maintained and readily available.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provision was asked to address three recommendations.

An action plan was put into place. All records are now retained and stored appropriately to ensure the successful management of the provision.

The safe guarding children policy has been reviewed to include the procedure to be followed if a member of staff is accused of abuse or neglect. This ensures that children are protected.

Further resources have been purchased that reflect positive images of diversity and disability. This helps children understand the wider world.

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 that a record of all visitors is kept in the provision.

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