

# Escape from Parents

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	135987
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Amy Skilton
<b>Setting Address</b>	Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, Bradley Stoke Way, Bradley Stoke, Bradley Stoke, South Glos, BS32 8EF
<b>Telephone number</b>	01454 867050
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Escape From Parents
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Escape from Parents holiday play scheme opened in 2000. It operates from within the leisure centre at Bradley Stoke, on the outskirts of Bristol. The play scheme 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 and disabilities. 15 members of staff work directly with the children. The manager and two other members of staff hold relevant childcare/play work qualifications.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about the importance of good hygiene, as they are encouraged to wash their hands with liquid soap before eating, after going to the toilet and after art and craft activities. They dry their hands with paper towels. Children receive appropriate and consistent care if they are unwell or injured, as all staff receive regular first aid training and a first aid box is regularly checked to ensure that the contents of it are replaced when needed. There is an effective

sickness exclusion policy in place to help to prevent the spread of infection. Comprehensive medication and accident records are maintained, as well as permission forms for emergency treatment to be administered.

There is no enclosed outdoor space for children to enjoy fresh air and physical activities. However, children participate in a range of indoor exercise, including going on a bouncy castle and participating in team games such as basketball and hockey. Children also have sole use of a soft play room. The manager has plans in place to enable children to enjoy outdoor activities as well.

Children are encouraged to eat a healthy diet, as staff communicate with parents on this, including displaying a poster on healthy eating. Parents either provide packed lunches or choose a meal for their child from the canteen. Staff are aware of children's dietary requirements, including any allergies, as these are discussed with parents on induction, to ensure that all children's preferences and health and cultural needs are met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The play scheme provides a welcoming environment, with friendly staff and an atmosphere of open communication. The room is well ventilated whilst also being at an appropriate temperature. All parents and children are greeted at the door and children quickly settle into the routine of the day. All children have ample space to move around safely, as they play either within a spacious hall or five further rooms, with well laid out resources, or the adventure play room, made up of nets, climbing equipment, obstacles and soft play equipment. The staff deploy themselves well, in order to supervise children, and they respond quickly if unsafe play develops. Staff operate a secure entry system to protect children from unwanted visitors. This includes a registration system for all children, as well as a visitors' signing in and out book. However, the registers lack some detail.

Children are safe most of the time, due to the staff's good understanding of safety issues. For example, staff maximise children's safety when moving from one area to another, ensuring that they always meet ratio requirements. They ensure that all areas and equipment are risk assessed regularly and that daily checks on the premises are completed. However, on one occasion children's safety is not maximised, as they are stood next to a large bouncy castle being let down in the sports hall. Staff have a clear understanding of their responsibility to safeguard children from harm, and they know what to do if they have concerns about a child or receive allegations against themselves.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happy and settle quickly into the care of staff. This indicates that they are confident and developing positive relationships. There is an array of activities on offer appropriate for children's stage of development, including basketball, playing on a bouncy castle, cooking, and driving on small motorised cars. However, the majority of the activities cater for children's physical development, and limited resources are on offer to promote their intellectual development. For example, there are no books for children to read, despite a library being situated within the same building.

Transitions between activities are well managed, as staff keep within ratios, and activities are laid out ready for children to participate. Good interactions take place between the children and staff. Staff join in play on a sociable level and the children welcome their involvement. Staff take time to listen to the children, whilst supporting them in their learning and development, providing them with open questions and sufficient challenge.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individuality and diversity are respected, through an equal opportunities policy, which staff follow to meet their needs. Staff ensure that their needs are met in an inclusive environment. All children are encouraged to partake in activities, and alternatives are provided.

Children with learning difficulties, disabilities or English as an additional language are closely monitored and supported, as staff work with other professionals and parents, and receive training if needed. A special educational needs policy is in place.

The children are observed to be settled and content, enjoying warm relationships with the staff and responding to their gentle manner and copious praise for all their efforts. Children learn about right and wrong, responding well to directions from staff, as they clearly explain, for example, how to play nicely with one another.

Parents are included in their children's development, as the play scheme operates an open communication system, including providing parents with daily verbal feedback. Policies and procedures are shared with parents, as well as further information on the child's individual needs, such as any allergies, particular likes and dislikes.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Staff are deployed appropriately to provide individual support and challenge. Good systems are in place to allow all children to be included and supported.

Children are familiar with the routine of the day and they build secure bonds with the staff. They play within spacious areas with well laid out activities. However, there is a strong focus on physical development, and limited planning for children's intellectual development. All of the documentation required by regulation is in place, but the contact details in the complaints policy are out of date and attendance registers do not record children's accurate times of attendance.

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

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to 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. The provider also agreed to 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, and ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The provider has effective systems in place to ensure that Ofsted are updated of any relevant information. A form is completed for these purposes. The registration certificate was observed to be displayed at the inspection. An appropriate complaints policy is in place, however the contact details of the regulator need updating. An action plan is in place for all staff to begin training to achieve their level 2 qualification, in September and November. No unvetted persons are allowed to pass through or share the areas being used by the play group. All accidents are recorded, and there is an appropriate child protection policy in place.

### **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 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):

- ensure that children's care is securely underpinned by current and comprehensive documentation, including appropriately detailed registers and complaints procedures
- ensure children's safety by reviewing arrangements to deflate the bouncy castle
- widen the range of activities on offer to further develop children's intellectual capabilities.

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)