

Rivermead Leisure Complex

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY350592
Inspection date	26 July 2007
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Registered person	Greenwich Leisure 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rivermead Crèche registered under Greenwich Leisure Ltd in 2007 and is one of several provisions located in the South. It is located within the Rivermead Leisure Complex situated close to Reading town centre. The crèche have use of one base room and use of two other areas when required. The base room is used solely for the crèche. The crèche accepts a maximum of 30 children between the ages of a few weeks and five years old. Children attend for a maximum of two hours per day. The crèche serves the needs of families using the leisure facilities. The crèche is open Monday to Thursday 09.00 - 12.00, 12.30 - 14.00 (also 14.00-14.30 on Tuesdays term time only) Friday 09.30 - 12.00 and 12.30 - 14.00 or 14:30 term time only, except for Bank Holidays and the period between Christmas and New Year. Eight staff work across the age groups, all of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected by the appropriate policies and procedures that are in place. Staff are able to deal effectively with any emergency or illness that may affect a child in their care.

However, current first aid certificates for the staff have expired. All staff are aware of any children who have special medical or dietary requirements.

Children are able to bring their own drinks and drinking water is freely available throughout each session.

Practitioners recognise signs of tiredness in babies and young children. They act on this knowledge to plan and support appropriate periods of rest and activity. Children have the opportunity to develop confidence in their physical skills by using a very good range of brightly coloured toys and equipment. There is a large soft-play area for older children and a smaller separate area for babies and younger children.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene and learn to understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet. A good level of hygiene is maintained in the setting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their play in a very safe environment where staff have identified and minimised all potential risks to children. They can easily access the toys and equipment, which are checked regularly, are of good quality, and well maintained. Space within the crèche is well-organised allowing children to move around safely and independently.

Children develop an awareness of safety issues as they practise emergency evacuation procedures with staff. They are kept safe during play as staff reinforce safe practices, for example, using the slide appropriately.

There is a robust security system in place to protect children and the registration procedure ensures that children are safely delivered to and from the crèche. However, staff times of arrival and departure are not recorded in the registers.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as there is a child protection policy in place and staff are confident of their roles in the protection of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and settle well into the crèche. They have a sense of belonging as the staff form positive relationships with each child. Their emotional development is supported, as children are encouraged to join in or simply to watch from a safe lap.

Children are provided with a wide range of activities, which they find interesting, challenging and enjoyable. They are well supported by staff in their play. Staff build on the children's own likes and dislikes encouraging children to extend their learning by introducing balls of different texture and size for the children to explore as they kick, throw and catch the balls.

Practitioners recognise that young children need a stimulating environment, in which to feel safe, and which encourages independence. However, there is a lack of natural and familiar objects, which enable children to develop home/setting links and encourages imitative and imaginative play.

The 'Birth to three matters' framework is used effectively to support the development of younger children. Staff talk to the children, responding to their verbal and non-verbal communications, showing an interest and developing the children's own voice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Children are always listened to and are able to communicate their own needs in a supportive environment. Staff have a good understanding of equal opportunities issues and have a positive attitude towards diversity. Children's awareness of their own and other cultures are developed, as there are resources available to them, which reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability.

Children begin to understand what is right and wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and age-appropriate methods used by practitioners to manage behaviour, including distraction and explanation. Children also begin to learn to accept and respect the needs of others, by joining in their games, completing jigsaw puzzles.

Children benefit from the effective, professional relationships staff have fostered with parents. Parents receive feedback after each session regarding their child's activities and achievements

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children settle well into the crèche and are secure, confident and happy. They are able to develop independence and self-confidence as they are well supported by staff and the setting is well organised.

All necessary documentation is in place; however, it lacks details in some areas. Policies and procedures are in place to provide for children's welfare, care and learning. To ensure children's safety, the provision ensures that all persons with access to children are suitably vetted. There are procedures in place for the safe collection of children.

Staff have a good understanding of the needs of young children. They update their knowledge regularly and show a commitment to training. However, none of the staff currently holds a first aid certificate.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

N/A

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. 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):

- provide babies and young children with more opportunities for heuristic play
- record times of arrival and departure of staff working directly with children
- develop child protection procedure to include procedure to be followed in event of an allegation made against a member of staff including informing Ofsted.
- develop the complaint procedure to include the telephone number for Ofsted.
- ensure that sufficient staff have a current first aid certificate.

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