



Nidderdale Recreation Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400189
Inspection date	23 August 2005
Inspector	Janet, Elizabeth Singleton
Setting Address	Low Wath Road, Pateley Bridge, North Yorkshire, HG3 5HL
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Registered person	Harrogate Borough 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Nidderdale Recreation Centre Play scheme opened in October 1994 and is run by Harrogate Borough Council. It serves mainly the local community. The scheme is open-access; however, systems are in place to ensure children are collected by authorised persons. Children use the main hall, the squash courts and a quiet room. The play scheme have sole use of the building when the scheme is running and there is access to an adjoining field, an asphalt football/hockey pitch and a grassed area at the rear of the building where the children have their packed lunches in good weather.

The play scheme takes children who have previously booked in and this figure may change daily up to a maximum of 40 at any one time.

Children aged from 4 years up to 12 years attend. The scheme is open during school holidays, Monday to Friday from 08:30hrs to 17:30hrs. The play scheme is managed by a co-ordinator who has a team of staff working in the community centre. Five staff work with the children and four staff have qualifications in childcare. All staff have experience of working on play schemes and have received training for play work through Harrogate Borough Council.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities that promote their development and contribute to their well-being. They spring onto the vaulting horse, controlling their movements as they jump off and stretch to complete the action. They develop their fine movements as they manipulate the pipe cleaners into shapes, stick, glue and create bendy figures to paint. Children begin to understand the need to warm up muscles before exercise and to cool down when finished to prevent injury.

Children stay healthy because the staff promote good hygiene practices and there are very effective policies and procedures in place. Staff check all areas prior to children arriving to ensure they are very clean for children, therefore reducing the risk of cross-contamination. Children readily wash their hands before snack and after visiting the bathroom. They talk about being clean and washing germs off their hands as they develop good hygiene practices of their own. Children's health needs are further met as the staff have all medical details and information is fully recorded, with all consent forms for medical attention and treatment in place. Accident procedures are implemented to a high standard and staff have qualifications in first aid.

Children are provided with water to drink at all times and freely access the water fountain. Although children bring their own packed lunch, they learn about healthy options as staff talk to them about their food choices, discussing what is a healthy option, these being fruit and healthy sandwich fillings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move freely and have space to take part in all activities provided. They play safely and are welcomed into the setting, being greeted in a very friendly manner by staff and have a sense of belonging as their art work is attractively displayed. Children make very good use of the sport facilities as they run, play games of tennis and use the gymnastic equipment under close supervision of a qualified gymnastics coach to maintain their safety.

Children use and enjoy an extensive range of toys and equipment which include art

materials, physical equipment, books and role play. They make choices from the appropriate toys and equipment as they readily decide which activity they are going to take part in. Equipment is very clean and is in good order, being regularly checked by staff.

Children are safe as security of the premises is good. The door is locked and access is by a member of staff, therefore, children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and there can be no unauthorised access to children. Children take an active part in practising the evacuation of the building and discuss the action to take should an emergency arise. Their safety is promoted as staff have good procedures in place, including a comprehensive risk assessment, daily checklist of all areas and all required safety features are in place.

Children's welfare is protected because staff understand their role in child protection and are cared for by vetted people. They are clear about the action they need to take and are aware of signs and symptoms including bruising, being withdrawn, a change of behaviour and neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and settled and arrive at the setting happy and eager to participate. They collect in the quiet room and make themselves busy with the role play, books and games as they take control over the activities they want to take part in and discuss what they are going to do today. The children enjoy an exciting range of activities which include making art figures and painting them. They delight in playing in the sand outdoors as they make birthday cakes and castles for the staff, engaging in humorous conversations as they guess the age of the staff to put the candles on the cake.

Children take part in a range of superb physical activities that promote good control and self-discipline as they balance, walk along the beam and jump, landing in a controlled manner. They develop their confidence as they carry out specific actions under the instruction of the gymnastics coach and have a wonderful sense of achievement when they have completed their set target. Staff use praise and encouragement effectively throughout, as children try and persevere at the creative and physical activities.

Children are supported in their play because staff sit with and encourage them in all activities, talking to them about what they are doing and encouraging them to make the most of all activities.

Staff interaction is mostly positive, however, some talk is inappropriate for children during the lunch break period, for example, staff discussing personal issues or events.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where parents are fully included to ensure children's needs are met. Children are highly valued as individuals and are fully welcomed into the setting and access all the toys and equipment and take part in all activities provided. They view posters and access books which reflect diversity and thus children learn to respect people's differences.

Children manage their own behaviour as they are fully included in setting the boundaries and setting the consequences, these being negotiated and agreed by all children. They are well mannered and polite, saying "please" and "thank you" at all times. They understand the need to share and to be kind to each other as they discuss how it makes you feel happy, showing a very good awareness of their own and other children's feelings.

Staff act as good role models and are calm and consistent in their approach and children follow their example.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents are provided with clear information about the setting in the parents' pack which includes the activities, policies and general information about children's lunch provision and clothing. Parents benefit from positive and open communication systems which ensure they are fully aware of the care practices provided for their child. Staff provide opportunities on a daily basis to talk to parents and provide information on the notice board displayed in the entrance.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well protected and cared for by staff who have the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide good quality care. Effective recruitment and vetting procedures are in place and there is an excellent induction programme for staff. This ensures staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and promotes consistency in the setting. Training is encouraged for all staff to increase their knowledge and skills to improve their practice and the care of the children. Children are grouped appropriately and good staff deployment enables children to vary their experiences throughout the day, have good levels of support and take an active part in the setting.

Children benefit from an environment and practice that is organised to meet their needs by maintaining the correct ratios and having policies and procedures which work in practice to promote positive outcomes for children. All regulatory documentation to protect children's welfare is completed accurately, up-to-date and is stored securely.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the setting has made water freely available to children by

providing jugs and cups for them to monitor their own needs. They have increased the frequency of the fire drill to a weekly basis, so that new children are fully aware of the action to take should an evacuation of the building may need to take place.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been 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 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 appropriate and consistent interaction by staff at all times.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk