

The White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY222555
Inspection date	21 August 2007
Inspector	Sheila Collins
Setting Address	Audlett Drive, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 3PJ
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Registered person	Community Leisure Services Ltd.
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre was registered in 2002. It is situated in the north of Abingdon, in Oxfordshire. The centre provides a crèche facility and an out of school sports camp. The crèche is located in a purpose built room and the sports camp has use of various areas within the centre including the sports hall, swimming pool, and tennis and squash courts.

The crèche is registered to provide a maximum of 18 places each session for children aged between three months and five years. There are currently 1600 children on roll. Children attend for two hour sessions. The crèche sessions run from 9.00 to 16.00 Monday to Friday and 9.30 to 12.30 on a Saturday for 51 weeks of the year. The crèche supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are 14 staff working in the crèche on a rota basis. Of these 12 hold an appropriate early years qualification.

The sports camp is registered to provide a maximum of 50 places for children aged five to eight years. Older children may also attend. There are currently 250 children on roll. The sports camp runs during the school holidays between 8.30 and 17.30. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The sports camp supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are 23 staff available to work in the sports camp. Of these staff six hold level 2 and above appropriate early years qualifications and nine hold basic play work qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff follow the children's own routines within the crèche, which helps the children to feel secure. Parents and staff exchange information daily about the children's individual requirements, for example, their sleep routines, which ensure that these are met. Parents bring the children's drinks and babies' feeds. Staff make sure that the children, especially babies, have these at times specified to meet their needs. Staff use good procedures when changing nappies, which ensures little risk of cross infection for babies. Children's emotional well being is very well supported, as staff have good knowledge of the needs of the individual children.

Children in both the crèche and sports camp benefit from the good procedures in place, which staff follow, for example, for first aid or when they are unwell, which also contributes to keeping the children healthy. Children's health is promoted because staff have knowledge of the children's health and dietary needs. All the relevant documentation is in place, to support the children's well-being. However, this differs within the crèche and the sports camp, for example written parental permission for staff to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Also within the sports camp, medication records are not in a confidential format.

Within the sports camp, the children are independent in their personal hygiene but staff accompany them and check the facilities as the centre is also open to the public. Staff remind the children to wash their hands after using the toilets. However, they do not do so before the children have their lunch. Children bring packed lunches from home, which are stored in the sports hall either on the benches or on the floor. There is no information for parents in the brochure regarding the fact that lunches are not stored in a cool place. There are limited facilities available at lunch time for the children to sit and eat; as a result some children sit on the floor placing their food on the floor in front of them. Consequently there are problems with wrapping being left on the floor and uneaten food being left on the side. Water is available at all times and is easily accessed by all the children.

Children in both areas have opportunities for physical play indoors, which helps them develop their physical skills. Within the crèche, babies have the freedom to crawl and all children take part in a wide range of activities that help them to develop their fine and gross motor skills. Children in the sports camp benefit from plenty of exercise in the form of games and sports, as this is an integral part of the planned day. However, they have few opportunities to take part in activities outside, so do not benefit from fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The crèche is a welcoming, child-orientated environment, which has been laid out well to accommodate the different ages and stages of the children attending. Children use age and stage appropriate resources that they select for themselves from a range put out daily by staff. Toys and equipment for babies and children in the crèche are regularly checked by staff so are safe for the children to use. The sports camp base room is in the sports hall which is also used

by other users of the centre but staff endeavour to make it welcoming for the children. The staff put out a range of activities each day for the children to choose from. However, the range of non-sports based resources is limited.

The staff have procedures in place, which they follow to minimise risks for the children. The deployment of staff within the crèche ensures that the children are safe and secure in the environment. Staff in the sports camp are vigilant in their supervision of the children, when using different areas of the leisure centre, as the centre is both used by the public and the children. However, the staff are not always aware of the children taking part in the activity they are running, for example in the tennis courts. The children and staff take part in regular evacuation drills. However, these are recorded centrally and not within the creche or sports camp documentation.

The children in the sports camp know the rules, which are in place for their safety. Parents are asked to send their child in suitable foot wear for sports activities but this is not always adhered to which poses a risk for the children. Staff have a clear understanding of safe guarding procedures so ensuring the children's welfare. However, changes to the staffing within the sports camp and the centre have not been advised to Ofsted so children may be at risk as a result of Ofsted's inability to make the appropriate checks of suitability on these personnel.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the crèche and are keen to take part in activities. They are helped to settle in well by staff who support them until they feel confident in their environment. Through praise, encouragement, and appreciation of the children's efforts and achievements, the staff boost the children's self-esteem and confidence. Each child is able to choose activities that they would like to take part in and staff support them with their choice, for example hand painting and soft play. Staff know children's individual needs, and discussions at each session with parents ensure that these needs are met. The staff plan effectively for the children, following topics such as the weather. Activities are evaluated and are adapted to suit the children attending the session.

The children in the sports camp enter confidently and exchange greetings with each other and staff. They are able to self-select activities from those put out by the staff on arrival. During the day, they take part in a series of pre-planned activities. The programme is in place before the start of the scheme but staff listen to suggestions made by the children for activities.

Changes in the activities throughout the day, sustain the children's interest. They enjoy physical activities such as swimming and tennis. They also take part in less physical activities such as craft and have opportunities for quieter play such as colouring, puzzles and boxed games. They have opportunities to find out about different activities such as go- karting and have visits from the fire brigade and Zoo lab in their programme.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

In the crèche, the children's individual needs are met well as staff have clearly taken the time to get to know all the children. All the children have similar opportunities to take part in activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development, which means that any child with a learning difficulty is included. Children's individual needs and continuity of care are further

supported by a good partnership with parents and good communication between staff and parents at the beginning and end of each session the child attends. The children behave well and are supported by staff who have knowledge of appropriate behaviour management strategies, such as distraction.

Children's individual needs are known to staff within the sports camp. Children relate well to one another and to staff. All children are encouraged to take part in the activities with both boys and girls participating in mixed age and ability groups, for example, when on the tennis courts. The children have access to a wide range of sports facilities but non-sports resources and resources which reflect different cultures and abilities are limited. Children feel a sense of belonging as they are welcomed by staff on arrival. They know the simple rules in place for their safety as these are discussed daily. Staff praise the children for their efforts and achievements and are consistent when managing unwanted behaviour. However, not all staff give clear explanations as to why some behaviour is not acceptable.

There is an effective system in place for sharing information verbally with parents. They receive a brochure giving details of the sports camp activities and a welcome letter. However, they are not advised in this of how they can obtain a copy of the policies and procedures that the sports camp follows or about food storage. A complaints procedure is in place, with parents using the company feedback form, should they have any concerns.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Both the crèche and the sports camp are well organised. All children are well occupied and involved in the activities on offer. Staff are effectively deployed during the sessions. Children benefit from a good registration system, which is in place to ensure their safety.

All the required documentation for the safe day-to-day management is available when the crèche and sports camp are operating. Records of the children and the required parental consents enable staff to act in children's best interests. However, some of the documentation used in the sports camp for example the medication records are not kept in a confidential format. The required policies and procedures ensure the effective promotion of children's welfare and care. However, parents are not advised how they access these policies in the information they receive from the centre.

The certificate of registration is displayed in the crèche but it is not available for parents who are using the sports camp so children may be at risk as a result of parents' inability to check registration status and conditions. Changes in staffing have not been advised to Ofsted. As a result children may be at risk as a result of Ofsted's inability to make the appropriate checks of suitability on these personnel.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection of the crèche one recommendation was made. This was to obtain parents prior written permission to seek any emergency medical first aid advice or treatment.

The crèche has implemented this by adding it to the registration form.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and put into place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant changes to staffing namely the nominated person and staff in day to day charge of the children in the crèche and sports camp so that Ofsted can make appropriate checks on their suitability.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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