



## Cascades Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	127085
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 August 2005
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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?

Cascades Crèche opened in 1983 and operates from one room in Cascades Leisure Centre. It is situated in the town of Gravesend, Kent. A maximum of 18 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open each weekday morning from 9:00 to 12:00 for 52 weeks of the year.

There is currently a large number of children aged from 3 months to under 5 years on roll. The number of children on roll varies. Children come from a wide catchment area. The crèche currently supports a number of children with special educational needs, and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional

language.

The nursery employs four staff. All of the staff, including the supervisor hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy an adequate range of activities which promotes their good health. Although there is no outside area for children to play they can access toys which help to develop their physical skills inside the crèche room, such as a slide and wheeled toys on which they can ride and push along. This enables them to develop their large motor control. Children are cared for in a spacious area where there is a sectioned off space for babies to play. Babies are kept safe and secure. Children learn the importance of good hygiene through the examples set by the staff. Children can help themselves to tissues to wipe their noses when they need to, children begin to learn about personal hygiene.

Children are at the crèche for short periods of time, they bring their own drinks and are offered these regularly. There is no fresh drinking water available but staff can fill up the children's cups if needed. Babies needs are considered, parents bring ready made bottles for them and they can have these during their time in the crèche. Children's dietary requirements and any allergies are recorded and parents can provide a snack for them if they are going to be at the crèche for longer than an hour. The children's wellbeing is considered through the records that are kept. The accident records need to include all children's accidents and any children arriving with existing injuries need to be noted and signed by the parents.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a spacious room where most risks have been identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are able to select from an adequate range of activities which are clean, well maintained and meet all safety standards, these are displayed at their level giving the children plenty of choice. The temperature of the crèche room is not consistent. There is an air conditioning unit in place and this helps keep the room cool, but on days which are warm this is not adequate. Children become hot and uncomfortable. This means that they do not relax and enjoy themselves.

The setting has most of the procedures in place to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded, for example there are designated staff with a first aid qualification. Children are kept safe from risk of harm and neglect as the staff have an understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and have attended training. Children's awareness of safety is promoted throughout the session as the staff make them aware of the hazards around them and talk to them about staying safe whilst

they are at the crèche.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the crèche, they appear confident and settle well. Space is utilised thoughtfully, there is a sectioned area for babies to play safely, toys and activities are arranged around the room and displayed at the children's level, this enables the children to confidently move between each activity. Children attend the crèche on a regular basis, they play well together and learn to co-operate with each other, two children playing with a shape sorter, work well together to fit the shapes into the post box, they work quietly with concentration and manage to complete their task. Children play with activities which meet their stages of development, however they would benefit greatly from the activities being extended, such as drawing activities having plain paper as well as pre-drawn pictures and being able to access different types of medium. Children make sound progress during their time at the crèche.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a positive view of the wider world around them as they have access to an adequate range of activities which increase their awareness of diversity, such as books and puzzles which reflect faces from different cultures. Children are acknowledged and valued by staff who build up relationships with the children, the care that they receive is warm and friendly. Children are well behaved at the crèche, staff use praise and encouragement and the children know what is expected of them.

Children benefit from a selection of policies and procedures which are shared with their parents, this means that they are informed of the care that their child will receive during their time in the crèche. Children receive continuity of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease in the adequately organised environment. This means that they are able to participate in activities which meets their developmental needs. Policies and procedures are used to promote the children's welfare, care and learning. Parents are kept informed of the children's progress verbally. Staffing levels are arranged to give the children maximum support. Children benefit from continuity of care and make consistent progress. Activities are planned to make the most of the time that they spend at the crèche. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

At the last inspection the provider agreed to address the following actions, provide a separate, safe area for children under 2 years, provide a comprehensive fire evacuation policy for the crèche which is known to all members of staff at the leisure centre, provide a written statement on behaviour management, which is understood and followed by staff and discussed with parents and ensure that the room used for the crèche is maintained at an adequate and comfortable temperature. These have all been addressed with the exception of the temperature of the crèche room, which they have taken steps to address however, the room is not maintained at an adequate temperature during warmer weather.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are 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 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 the temperature within the crèche is maintained at an adequate and comfortable level for the children
- ensure that fresh drinking water is available for children at all times
- ensure that all children's accidents are recorded and that a system is developed for recording children's existing injuries

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)