



The Gryphon Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 139384
Inspection date 18 August 2005
Inspector Samantha Powis

Setting Address Bristol Road, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4EQ

Telephone number 01935 814011
E-mail t.cooper@westdorset-dc.gov.uk
Registered person West Dorset District 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Gryphon Holiday Activities operate from the Gryphon Leisure Centre, situated in the grounds of the Gryphon secondary school in the town of Sherborne in Dorset. The premises are purpose-built and the children will have use of the main sports hall, the studio room, squash courts, an upstairs meeting room for craft activities and the school grounds including tennis courts and sports pitches. Children attending come from the town of Sherborne and various outlying villages.

The setting is registered to provide out of school care for 26 children aged between 5 to 8 years, older children up to the age of 13 years may also attend. Opening times

are from 08.30 to 17.30 on each weekday during the school holiday periods. Activities offered are largely sports based with some arts and crafts sessions also provided. The number of children on roll varies.

There are 40 staff who are employed to work with the children, most on a part-time basis. There are 3 staff who have playwork or childcare qualifications, with some other staff holding specific sports coaching and teaching qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's ongoing health is supported well. They are encouraged to follow effective daily routines to assist their personal hygiene that reduce the risk of cross-infection. These routines include regular hand washing throughout the day, such as before eating and after using the toilet. To maintain children's health, staff ensure a clear procedure is followed when administering medication, which includes recording detailed information. A written policy that excludes children with infectious illnesses from the setting reduces the risk of the spread of infection.

Children know the importance of having regular drinks, particularly when they are engaged in physical activities. They have access to drinking water at all times. Children bring their own packed lunches, and staff talk to the children about healthy options in their lunchboxes. The setting is taking part in a local initiative, to increase children's awareness and understanding of a healthy lifestyle. This approach will support the children in making healthy choices and provide them with information about where they can seek advice.

Children's physical development is fostered very well. They are actively involved in a good range of indoor and outdoor games and sports. These include netball, football and cricket activities. They enthusiastically use a wide variety of equipment to develop their large and small motor skills and increase hand-eye co-ordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play safely with good supervision from staff. The environment is well maintained and organised, to allow space for children to engage in a range of activities in safety. Although a risk assessment is carried out on the areas used by the children, action is not always taken to address potential hazards, for example, lack of socket covers. At the start of each day, staff remind children of expectations and appropriate conduct. For example, to always ask before leaving the play area, or going to the toilets. To continue to protect the children, staff sensitively monitor them when using different areas within the centre.

Children's ongoing safety and wellbeing is compromised due to a lack of accident recording. Serious accidents are recorded very well, with good details included.

However, minor accidents are not recorded at all.

Children are protected from harm through the staff's sound awareness and understanding of child protection issues. They are clear on the procedures to follow should they have a concern about a child in their care and most staff have completed training relating to this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled. They become involved in the activities available in a relaxed and informal environment. Their self-esteem is promoted due to the positive approach and encouragement of staff. Children have many opportunities to engage in a wide range of physical activities, and planned craft activities. Specialist sporting coaches teach children new skills to enable them to improve their game of football or cricket. However, children have a lack of choice during activities. For those who do not wish to participate in a sports activity, there are no other toys or resources freely accessible.

Good relationships have been formed between the children and staff. Staff interact naturally with the children with a positive attitude and approach. The children respond well to this and in turn are usually enthusiastic and interested throughout the day. Staff have a good awareness of the children's abilities and support them in their activities sensitively. To increase children's enjoyment, staff remain actively involved in all activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and their self-esteem is encouraged. This is due to the sensitive and positive approach of staff. They encourage the children to participate in all activities on offer, and support them according to their individual abilities. Children learn to value and respect the efforts and contributions of others, due to staff acting as good role models.

Children are generally well behaved. They demonstrate an understanding of the behavioural expectations of staff within the setting. Staff deal with any incidents regarding behaviour quietly and calmly, using appropriate strategies.

To meet children's needs, the setting seeks written information from parents about their individual needs. However, information is not always available to the staff who are working directly with the children. This may lead to a child's needs not being respected.

Basic information is given to parents about the setting, however, more detailed information for parents is not easily accessible. For example, a parents handbook which includes all the groups policies, is only provided to parents who request it. This limits opportunities to work closely in partnership with parents. Staff are available to

speak to parents at the beginning and end of each session. This allows both staff and parents to discuss each child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from effectively deployed staff who are enthusiastic and cheerful in their approach. This gives children a positive attitude, and encourages them to have a go at new activities. Basic plans are produced, to ensure staff are clear of the aims and intentions of activities, however, at times, there is a lack of choice of activities. Staff attend induction training, and continue to attend training sessions throughout the year. Most staff have a first aid qualification, however, none of them have a certificate that relates directly to providing first aid to young children. This therefore compromises the children's safety and wellbeing. Staff have an awareness of policies and procedures and use most documentation effectively to meet children's individual needs.

Children are relaxed within the setting, due to the staff and management working effectively as a team. They have good communication amongst themselves to ensure that they know of the children's whereabouts and supervise children under the age of eight well. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the setting has reviewed the procedure for recording administered medication to ensure clear information is now included. Children are now actively encouraged to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilets, to minimise the risk of cross infection. Registration forms include good opportunities for parents to detail children's individual needs, however, the system to inform staff of these needs is less effective. Fire drills are completed regularly by both staff and children, and a record of these is kept.

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):

- consider the organisation of activities and resources to offer children additional choice
- make sure staff are aware of children's individual needs, so these continue to be valued and respected
- ensure there is at least one member of staff on the premises at any one time, who has a first aid training certificate which includes training in first aid for young children
- maintain a record of all accidents

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