

St Crispins Leisure

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	148625
Inspection date	04 December 2007
Inspector	Carol Patricia Willett

Setting Address	London Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1SR
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Registered person	Leisure Connection Ltd.
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care, Crèche
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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?

St. Crispin's Leisure opened in 1999. It operates an after school club, holiday care scheme and a crèche in the leisure centre in Wokingham. The sports hall and two function rooms are used for the after school and holiday care scheme. A secure outside area is also available for activities. The crèche is held in a small room. Toilet and nappy changing facilities are shared with other users of the centre. The provision serves families from the local community. Staff collect children from local schools.

There are a varying number of children, aged from five to eleven years, on roll in the after school club. Children attend the crèche for short periods whilst parents undertake sports activities. Holiday care is available for up to 120 children. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting makes provision for children with special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The holiday care is available from 09.00 to 18.00, Monday to Friday, every school holiday. The after school care is available from 15.15 to 18.00, Monday to Friday, term time only. The crèche is available 09.30 to 12.30, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Staff hold National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) 2 and 3 and first aid qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's dietary needs are satisfactorily met as staff provide a good variety of food for their tea. Children choose the fillings for their sandwiches which staff make up and they have a selection of chopped fruit and vegetables. They are given a drink with their tea. Staff ensure children's dietary requirements are appropriately recorded. Children's social skills are developed as they all sit and eat together. However, children get bored as they have to sit for a long time whilst staff make the sandwiches and the procedure does not foster children's independence skills.

Children are protected from cross infection as staff follow satisfactory hygiene practices when preparing food and dealing with accidents. Children are suitably protected in the event of accidents as most staff have received training and are well prepared to respond to them. There are fully stocked first aid kits. Accident records are completed effectively with parents signing records to ensure they are fully informed. Audits are completed for accidents to identify any problem areas. Parents are required to provide written consent for staff to seek emergency treatment in the event of a serious accident, for the crèche and holiday play scheme. However, this has been overlooked in the after school club.

Children learn about personal hygiene and keeping healthy as they are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The systems for checking the toilets are suitable, are not robust, as sometimes the toilets are not sufficiently flushed, leaving children reluctant to use them. Tick sheets are not always completed to show when the toilets were last checked.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a suitable, safe environment in leisure centre with suitable facilities both inside and out, with a secure entry point at reception. The children freely access a range of suitable, age appropriate play materials, that are generally maintained in a suitable condition. Staff assess the premises for hazards, which enables the children to generally use the facilities safely and independently. However, risk assessments are not effective as some resources, such as the tables that children use for eating their tea, have damaged tops and some of the chairs are split with foam exposed and this puts children's health and safety at risk. Children's safety is supported by the staff's satisfactory understanding of policies and procedures, such as child protection procedures and who can collect the children. However, staff do not ensure children practise fire evacuation procedures to develop their confidence and understanding. The procedures for using the toilets do not protect children, as staff do not check other gym users are not present and they let children go in alone as a member of staff stands outside. Children's safety is underpinned by the use of adequate documentation, such as children's registration forms, which include sufficient information details, such as who may collect, allergies, medical and dietary needs.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally happy and confident as staff are caring and friendly and relate well to them. Staff show an interest in what the children do and say. They discuss the children's day in school and their families and their trip to the pantomime. Staff do not organise children's time effectively as the children have to sit for a considerable time with nothing to do whilst waiting for the others to finish their tea and whilst waiting for the hall to be available to them, as the leisure centre staff do not provide exclusive use for the hall for the after school club.

Children enjoy a suitable range of sporting activities which contribute to their good health as staff provide a good range of resources in the sports hall. There are outdoor activities to help them develop their physical skills and enjoy playing in the fresh air in better weather. The children enjoy ball games such as football, hockey and cricket in the sports hall and chasing games such as stuck in the mud. They play parachute games and have the use of the trampoline. Children enjoy a suitable range of sport activities. Staff organise a chasing game which interests and excites the children after the long time they sit at tea time. Children use their own initiative and organise themselves into groups to play sports that interest them, as staff do not plan the sessions. For example, a small group of boys play football and some others use the tennis rackets and walls to hit the balls against. The girls like to play chasing games with the hoops or practise gym moves on the crash mats whilst staff move into the three netted off areas to supervise and support the children. The children generally participate well, supported by the staff. However, staff do not plan effectively to provide more challenging activities to develop children's skills further. Children like to participate in craft activities, but some children feel they do not do them often enough as they only have access to craft one day a week.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident, secure and happy as staff are caring and friendly. They form good relationships with staff that listen to them, join in with their games and respect their individuality. This means children confidently decide what to do, freely select resources and choose activities. The children generally behave and work well together with others in their chosen games. They demonstrate acceptable social skills such as sharing equipment like tennis rackets and take turns on the trampoline. They work together in large group as staff organise group games to support and develop these skills with games such as stuck in the mud. Older children support the needs of the younger children in the group. This develops children's understanding of right and wrong and respect for other people.

Children benefit from the good relationships between staff and their parents. Parents provide relevant information on the registration forms. This ensures staff know and are able to meet children's individual needs. Their welfare is safeguarded as information is shared informally on a daily basis. For example, parents inform staff if someone else will collect their child.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The inspection took place in the after school club as other provisions within the setting were not operating at the time.

Children are generally safe and sufficiently well looked after in the after school club as staff are vetted and have relevant childcare qualifications. Staff are committed to update their knowledge and skills through further training in childcare. They provide a suitable range of sporting activities which the children enjoy, but these are not effectively planned to ensure children are purposefully occupied. Staff do not organise the routines effectively to ensure children are fully occupied as they sit too long at tea time and routines do not develop children's independence skills sufficiently. The leisure centre management does not ensure the sports hall are available to the children throughout the session so they sometimes have to wait for the other halls to be empty. Most policies and procedures are in place and generally work in practice to keep children safe, promote their well-being and support their development. Records are not effectively maintained in all areas of the provision, as staff are not fully aware of the parents' wishes, as they do not have written consent to seek emergency treatment in the after school club. The attendance register does not accurately reflect when children are in the club as some children go to other classes within the leisure centre and staff do not record this in the register. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was required to ensure policies and procedures are easily accessible to parents and staff. There has been good progress and a range of policies are available in the activity room used by the children. They are also available in the staff handbook. This ensures children's welfare is safeguarded.

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

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 all parents provide written consent to seek emergency treatment in the event of an accident
- review tea times to ensure it meets the needs of the children and encourages the development of their independence skills
- improve the procedures for children using the toilets to ensure their safety

- practise fire evacuation procedures to develop children's confidence and awareness in an emergency
- improve risk assessment procedures to ensure all equipment is in a suitable and safe condition
- review and improve the organisation of the session to ensure children are actively engaged throughout their time in the after school club
- ensure the attendance register accurately reflects the children's time in the after school club.

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