



Rainbows End Crèche, and Active Zone Holiday Play scheme.

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	146032
Inspection date	30 August 2005
Inspector	Doreen Forsyth
Setting Address	Barton Dene, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1PB
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Registered person	Rainbows End Creche
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

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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?

Rainbow's End Crèche and Active Zone Holiday Play scheme were registered in 1995. The settings occupy a number of rooms within Marlborough Leisure Centre. The crèche has use of a room fitted with soft play equipment and an additional squash court can be adapted and used when needed. The holiday club generally has use of a base room and main sports hall, as well as other available rooms in the centre. Children use the local college playing fields for outside play. Swimming is available to children attending the holiday scheme.

The crèche is open for five days per week from 09:00 until 13:00. The holiday club

opens from 08:30 until 17:30 during school holidays. The settings support children with special needs. There are currently approximately 260 children on roll.

There are 15 members of staff in total working with the children. Nine staff work with the holiday play scheme, of which one holds an early years qualification and another is on a training programme. Of the six staff working in the crèche, three have early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children attending the holiday club and crèche learn well about healthy lifestyles and good nutrition; children at the holiday club enjoyed focusing on a healthy living topic and competition. Most children bring packed meals to the provision but they can also chose healthy options from the centre's café. Children have suitable access to drinking water so they do not become thirsty.

Children have many good opportunities to enjoy different activities and develop their physical skills. They take part in team games and sports and have the opportunity to swim each day while at the holiday club. In the crèche there is a good range of soft play resources that younger children enjoy using.

Children stay healthy because practitioners follow current and suitable health and hygiene procedures, for example, recording children's individual dietary needs. Staff help children to learn suitable hygiene routines, such as washing their hands before eating or after using the toilet.

Children have opportunities to rest according to their needs. Staff organise quieter times after meals at the holiday club and good arrangements are made for babies to sleep, when necessary, while in the crèche.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe environment which is kept clean, is well maintained, is risk assessed and is suitable for children's play. Good health and safety routines are observed. Children learn appropriately about keeping themselves safe, for example, by using the correct safety buoyancy aids when swimming and by practicing fire evacuation procedures.

The resources available are suitable for their purpose, safe and well maintained. All children use a range of resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development; these are mostly sports or games related equipment.

Children are well protected because staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending the holiday club and taking part in the well planned range of activities. They especially enjoy the daily swim in the centre's pool, which provides children with an opportunity to acquire new skills and to respond to challenge. Children take part in a range of suitable activities, which are mostly sports based, but they also enjoy group word and team games and craft activities. Younger children enjoy singing nursery rhymes, playing with small world toys and using the soft play resources. Some afternoons the children and staff use the sports field of a neighbouring college for outside play and games.

Children interact very well with the adults in the setting, who encourage the children to have fun and enjoy their time at the scheme. Children usually follow the programme planned by the staff and do not have many opportunities to choose what they do apart from the planned programme.

When at the crèche, children enjoy the soft play resources and play with a range of suitable toys that support their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and their individual needs are observed and met as far as possible. This includes children with special needs, who receive one to one support if necessary. Children are praised and encouraged; their achievements are acknowledged.

Children learn to help and respect each other, to take turns and to share. Children clap and congratulate others that have done well in the holiday club. Children understand the rules and routines of the settings, for example, they readily help to tidy up before moving on to another activity.

Children are settled and happy in the setting as parents and staff work together. Parents are well informed about the provision and have access to the setting's policies and procedures. There is an information booklet for parents explaining the activities available to their children while at the setting; there are also informative notice boards outside the crèche.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. The setting is well organised, ensuring children are well supported and supervised, and that good adult-to-child ratios are maintained. The staff are appropriately checked and are suitable to work with children. They are experienced in childcare and play work, and undergo a good induction programme, but in the holiday club, staff are not

suitably qualified.

Most of the required documentation to ensure the smooth organisation of the setting is in place and good registration systems are used, however, the setting does not have a written procedure to follow if a child was uncollected from the setting or if allegations of abuse were made against a member of staff.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the setting has improved health and hygiene procedures and now encourages children to wash their hands when appropriate in the daily routines.

Although over 50% of the staff working in the crèche hold appropriate childcare qualification and staff working in the holiday club are experienced, the staff qualifications in the holiday club still do not meet minimum requirements. This issue will be carried forward from this inspection.

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 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 that all required documentation is in place, including a policy for the procedures to follow if a child is not collected, and the procedure the setting would follow if allegations of abuse were made against a member of staff
- continue to explore ways of ensuring that minimum staff qualification requirements are met

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concerns about inspectors' judgements which is available from Ofsted's website:
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