

Haltemprice Leisure Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314641
Inspection date	15 February 2008
Inspector	Carol-Anne Shaw
Setting Address	Springfield Way, Anlaby, Hull, HU10 6QJ
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Registered person	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Haltemprice Leisure Centre Crèche and Playscheme has been open for over 25 years and operates from rooms in Haltemprice Leisure Centre, in Anlaby, near Hull. It offers sessional crèche care to support centre users and a children's club during school holidays, for children over the age of five years.

The crèche is registered to offer care to 15 children and currently has over 200 children on roll. The groups welcome children with learning difficulties, or who speak English as an additional language. The crèche operates each weekday morning from 09.00 to 12.00, all year round. There are three regular staff and other designated leisure centre staff may also work in the crèche as required.

The holiday club is registered to care for up to 32 children aged from five to eight years. It operates from 08.30 to 17.45 each weekday during school holidays. Two main halls are used for the club activities, with a base area designated for sole use by the club during school holidays. There is a regular co-ordinator, who is supported by leisure centre staff.

Most of the staff working with the children have a childcare qualification at level 3, others are working towards appropriate childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and hygiene is protected and promoted. They begin to develop awareness of their own personal hygiene as they follow daily routines. They know it is important to wash their hands before snack time and after toileting and messy activities. The premises are clean and well maintained. Staff wipe all table tops with antibacterial solution at the start and end of each session and also prior to children eating snacks, helping to prevent cross-infection. Appropriate care is given if children have minor accidents as some members of staff hold a relevant first aid certificate and renew this regularly. Administered medication and accidents are recorded and parents informed on the day. The sickness policy ensures parents are aware of exclusion periods for children who are unwell, safeguarding them against the risk of infection and illness. Written parental permission is obtained for staff to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment, contributing to children's well-being. There are satisfactory arrangements in place for toileting, these are not ideal as children do not have their own toilets adjacent to the crèche.

Children are provided with a range of healthy and nutritious snacks and meals. They sit together with staff at snack and lunch time, making it a pleasant and social occasion. They are provided with a range of fresh foods such as apple, banana, pear and toast. The crèche snack is displayed so that parents know what their children are being offered. Their individual dietary needs and requirements are well catered for as staff are pro-active in ensuring their needs are met. Children are well hydrated because fresh drinks are offered at regular intervals throughout the session. Babies are well cared for, held while being bottle fed and experience regular interaction with staff.

In the holiday club, children experience regular opportunities to be active during sessions. They have access to many different physical activities and have a good range of planned activities. Football and parachute games in the hall are enjoyed by the children. They access play activities outdoors each session. The bouncy castle was available in the hall for the last day of the holiday.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are welcoming and child orientated. Children are cared for in a welcoming environment which helps them to feel secure and comfortable. The staff have a good understanding of health and safety, and have identified hazards and taken appropriate steps to minimise these. For example, children are protected from the risk of fire because there is a suitable emergency escape plan in place which is regularly practised with the children. The premises are secure and the doors kept locked to ensure children are unable to leave unsupervised and that the public are unable to enter. Children are able to move around the large play area in comfort and the babies have a good sized play area to crawl around, rest and play. Thorough risk assessments of the premises and resources are regularly carried out, enabling staff to ensure any broken toys or equipment are removed and replaced. Public liability insurance is in place and is retained by the management of the leisure centre.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities with regard to child protection procedures. They are fully aware of possible signs and symptoms of children who may be at risk and of their responsibility to ensure

the designated person is informed of any concerns. There is a clear child protection statement which is made available to parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The staff ensure the rooms are attractively set out and welcoming to the children with a good range of age-appropriate toys and resources. They spend time playing with the younger children in the crèche, giving reassuring cuddles and encouraging them to explore their environment. The younger children's learning needs are well met as the staff listen to their questions and comments and show a genuine interest in their discoveries. Children are encouraged to experiment and explore with the materials available and develop their creativity and imagination. They play imaginatively with a range of craft materials. Children's language skills are developing well through the staff's use of age-appropriate questioning and providing activities that encourage repetition of words.

The holiday club children actively engage in their freely chosen activities and seek out the staff when needed. Children independently access the daily craft activities. They enjoy choosing from a good range of resources and games and are able to take part in a variety of activities that are interesting and stimulating. The children choose to play individually or in small groups and enjoy activities such as role play, small world toys and cars, jigsaw puzzles and construction toys. As a result children's social and cognitive skills are developing well. Children participate in a wide range of planned themes and topics each holiday including road safety, healthy eating, flags of the world, and many sports activities to support their development. Some of the staff have sports coaching qualifications; these are used to promote children's skills. Children enjoy a good range of music and enjoy children's films.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met, because the staff obtain relevant information. They work closely with parents and have a satisfactory understanding of equal opportunity issues and how this affects their practice. Children have access to some resources and activities that help them to understand the wider society, however, these are limited. Some interesting themes help them to understand the significance of special days and different festivals.

Children who have learning difficulties are welcomed into the settings. A clear policy is in place which details how the service will be provided to include all children. This is supported by the staff's understanding of providing care which is inclusive through discussing the children's needs with parents.

Staff are consistent in their approach to behaviour management and a clear policy has been devised and is shared with parents. The staff have a positive approach to managing children's behaviour to promote their welfare and development. Children behave well as they share and take turns with resources. They are encouraged to take turns when jumping on to the play mat or to turn the pages in a story book. Children are made aware of the boundaries and are given explanations of why we do not take toys from one another. They enjoy regular praise and encouragement which promotes positive behaviour and children's self-esteem.

The older children have a clear understanding of the rules and why they are in place to promote their safety. The older children's behaviour is very good; the staff are consistent and give lots of praise and remind children of the boundaries.

The crèche staff form friendly relationships with parents. They provide parents with a daily 'parents record' form and exchange verbal information at the start and end of each session, keeping parents informed about what the children have been doing and the care they have received. The holiday club exchange of information is done verbally at the start and end of the sessions as parents drop off and collect children.

Parents are provided with clear information about the crèche and holiday club facility through an information leaflet, notice board and access to the policies and procedures. A complaints procedure is in place and made available for parents. Parents value the friendly relationship they have with the staff and feel welcome and supported in the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises are well organised so that children can play freely and in comfort. There is a friendly atmosphere and the children are settled as they play happily and chatter to each other and the staff.

Children's care and welfare is well promoted in both the crèche and holiday club. There is a sound recruitment policy in place which ensures all staff who are employed are vetted for their suitability and undergo a thorough induction process. Staff members are appropriately qualified and deployed to provide sufficient levels of support for the children attending. As a result children are happy and relaxed within the environment and staff work well together to ensure their needs are met. However, the system for registering staff attendance is not included on the main register showing their hours of attendance.

Regular meetings and individual discussions are held which enables the staff and management to highlight their skills and to discuss any further training they may benefit from. This ensures their knowledge and understanding of childcare practice is kept up to date. The staff have a good awareness and understanding of the setting's policies and follow procedures to ensure consistency of care for all children. Most of the relevant documentation is well maintained and children's records and staff details are stored securely.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection there were a number of recommendations made relating to policies, documentation, and qualifications of staff.

All the required policies are now available, the groups work to policies covering equal opportunities, special needs, ill children, emergency evacuation and behaviour, the staff are made fully aware of the policies and procedures and therefore promote good practice.

The staff have attended training to gain childcare qualifications and new staff have been employed to ensure that staff are qualified in childcare to meet the required levels.

This has improved the standard of care and safety for the children attending.

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 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):

- develop resources and activities to support children's understanding of diversity and disability
- ensure the system for registering children's attendance on a daily basis, shows the hours of attendance for the staff working with the children.

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