



Colchester Leisure World Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Colchester Leisure World Crèche, which is operated by Colchester Borough Council, opened in 1991 and the Kids Camp in 1992. They operate from within Colchester Leisure World. The settings serve the local and surrounding areas.

The crèche is registered to provide care for no more than 19 children under 5 years; of these, not more than 6 may be under 2 years at any one time. The kids camp is registered to care for no more than 56 children from 5 years to under 8 years at any one time. The numbers on roll varies for both facilities as the provisions are there to serve an ever changing flow of users of the Colchester Leisure World complex.

Children attend for a variety of sessions. Both of the settings support a small number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche opens 3 days a week all year round. Sessions are from 09:30 until 12:30. The kids camp opens 5 days a week during all the school holidays. Sessions are from 09:00 until 15:00 with extended times from 08:00 until 17:00.

There are 4 part time staff working with the children in the crèche, of these 3 have early years qualifications. There are 11 full and part time staff working with the children in the kids camp. Some staff have an early years qualification and one a teaching degree.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good hygiene practices are mostly supported in the setting as the staff have knowledge of hand washing and toileting procedures. All children are expected to wash their hands before snacks and meals, and after toileting. Younger children in the crèche are supervised at all times when using the toilets to ensure they learn about keeping themselves clean and prevent cross infection. Children are protected from infectious illness through the clear exclusion policy. However, this does not include the procedure to follow in the event a child is ill during the day. The older children are independent in self-care skills. They enjoy physical exercise as they join in organised sports activities such as swimming and the younger children using wheeled toys. Older children who participate in energetic sports are unable to access a suitably equipped area to rest and recuperate before embarking on the next activity.

Children have regular drink breaks and juice is available at all times. However, staff are not proactive in encouraging children to help themselves whenever they need to quench their thirst. They gain scant understanding, whilst at the provision, of the value of good nutrition for a snack. Children are given biscuits or a bag of crisps because nourishing options such as fruit are not always available. However, the kids camp lunch, provided by the centre, is adequate and nourishing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and kept safe in the organised environment both in the crèche and the kids camp. They are protected from the general public through good supervision as the older children move around the building accessing different activities. Children in the crèche are always escorted to the toilets which have been designated for their use only. The younger children are secure and cannot leave the sports hall unattended. They are only collected by the nominated person on their registration sheet. However, there is no uncollected child policy in place.

Children's safety is maintained as the staff in the leisure centre conduct regular checks throughout the day to ensure all hazards are minimised quickly. They are supervised during swimming activities by qualified life guards and the kids camp staff.

Children are learning about safety as they follow the rules for the bouncy castle in the kids camp. Children in the crèche practice the emergency evacuation procedure. However, those in the kids camp do not. Their emergency medical needs are met as most staff in the crèche have a relevant first aid certificate and many members of staff throughout the building are qualified in first aid. These people can be quickly called upon to help in an emergency. Children who require specific emergency medical treatment do not always have their medication to hand.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff have a clear understanding of the child protection procedure in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee policy.

Children safely and independently select activities from a wide range of resources in the crèche. The resources in the kids camp are mainly for sporting activities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children throughout the setting are confident to be left by their parents. They show good levels of interest in the crèche and many in the kids camp enjoy the challenge that some sporting activities provide especially swimming. Children benefit from sensitive interaction with the staff to help them take a risk and develop physical skills such as swimming under water.

Children in the kids camp have activities planned throughout the day which are mainly sport orientated which develops physical abilities and their experience of different leisure pursuits. However, there is limited facilities to give children an alternative when they are not interested in the activity planned.

Children in the crèche experience activities to develop their imagination and be creative with the resources to act out familiar scenarios of home life. They enjoy having stories read to them and pictures explained. However, children have few opportunities to practice using crayons and pencils in the crèche.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children throughout the setting enjoy respectful relationships with each other and the staff. They share and take turns amicably as staff explain the rules to them and negotiate turn taking with the younger ones. The older children develop friendships as they participate in team games and wait their turn patiently.

Children's individual needs are taken account of as staff are aware of how much support each child needs to take an active part in an activity such as swimming. The children in the crèche have their home culture acknowledged and use resources that

show positive images of a multi-cultural society.

Children are well behaved and know what is expected of them as staff praise the good behaviour and reinforce the guidelines for using large equipment.

The partnership with parents is satisfactory which ensures children are cared for according to the parent's wishes. Children's parents are informed of most incidents that may have occurred during the day when they come to take their child home. The parents are given clear information about how to make a complaint and some safety procedures which are posted on the notice board.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at ease and safe within the suitably organised environment. The setting pays particular attention to employing staff which are suitable to work in the crèche or kids camp. Children are looked after by staff that have completed the criminal record bureau check. However, the setting has not informed the regulating body of any changes in staff. Children benefit from the good relations between staff, which results in good team working to provide an interesting programme of sporting activities in the kids camp and a good range of play opportunities for the youngest children.

Children's attendance is recorded by parents as they arrive and depart. They are kept safe through the implementation of an effective health and safety policy including a risk assessment. However, not all the required policies are in place to enable staff to understand what to do in specific circumstances to ensure the smooth running of the setting.

Most of the staff in the crèche have the appropriate qualifications to enable them to provide a varied programme of activities to promote children's independence and overall development. Children in the kids camp are supported by staff knowledgeable of sporting activities and supervisors who have or are working towards a level four qualification in teaching.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Colchester Leisure Centre Crèche and Kids Camp have developed some policies and procedures necessary for the smooth running of the setting. They still need to improve their documentation for some procedures to ensure staff know what to do in all eventualities. For example, if a child is uncollected and allegations of abuse are made against a member of staff or whilst the child is on the premises when in the registered provision.

Children in the crèche now benefit from a wider range of resources which show positive images of a multi cultural society. The food and drink they are given is recorded enabling parents to decide what the children can have. Children in the kids

camp are able to interact with staff during lunchtime so making it a more sociable activity.

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 the first aid box contents are frequently checked and replaced as necessary and children's individual medication is easily accessed by staff
- advise parents of what foods can be stored safely in lunch boxes and enable all children to experience healthy and nutritious snacks
- make provision/space, well equipped, for children who wish to relax or play quietly
- practise the fire evacuation procedure periodically (this refers to the kids camp)
- ensure written policies and procedures reflect current legislation and regulation (this refers child protection, special needs, equal opportunities, a sick children policy and records of medication administered documentation)
- ensure Ofsted is informed of any changes in members of staff
- ensure records are always available for inspection by an early years child care inspector.

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