

# The White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY222555
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 August 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Tracy Bartholomew
<b>Setting Address</b>	Audlett Drive, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 3PJ
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<b>Registered person</b>	Community Leisure Services Ltd.
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

The White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre was registered in 2002. It is situated in the north of Abingdon, in Oxfordshire. The centre provides a crèche facility and an out of school sports camp. The crèche is located in a purpose built room and the sports camp has use of various areas within the centre including the sports hall, swimming pool, and tennis and squash courts.

The crèche is registered to provide a maximum of 18 places each session for children aged between three months and five years. The number of children on roll varies. Children attend for two hour sessions. The crèche sessions run from 9.00 to 16.00 Monday to Friday and 9.30 to 12.30 on a Saturday for 51 weeks of the year. The crèche supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are 12 staff working in the crèche on a rota basis. Of these 10 hold an appropriate early years qualification.

The sports camp is registered to provide a maximum of 50 places for children aged five to eight years. Older children may also attend. There are currently 250 children on roll. The sports camp runs during the school holidays between 8.30 and 17.30. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The sports camp supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are 10 staff available to work in the sports camp. Of these staff five hold level 2 and above appropriate early years qualifications and nine hold basic play work qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff follow suitable procedures to minimise the potential for cross infection and to promote hygiene. They encourage children to have regard for good personal hygiene practices through consistent routines. For instance, children wash their hands after toileting and before eating. Children in both the crèche and sports camp benefit from the good procedures in place, which staff follow and have a good understanding of, this ensures that the children's health is well promoted.

Staff within the crèche ensure that they follow each child's personal routine, which helps the children to feel secure. They staff exchange information daily with the parents about the children's individual requirements, for example, their snack and sleep routine, which ensures that the staff can meet these. Parents supply the children's drinks, feeds and snacks which the staff store accordingly to follow health requirements. Staff follow good hygienic procedures when changing nappies, this ensures the risk of cross infection for children is minimised. Children in the sports camp bring their own packed lunch, which has suitable snacks and drinks within. In addition the children have access to fresh drinking water and staff remind children regularly to take on sufficient fluids to ensure they remain well hydrated during their time at the setting.

Children have very good opportunities to take part in physical play. Many activities are sports based and specialist sport and swimming coaches are used to help children develop their skills. In the crèche the children often play fun physical games in the soft play area and enjoyable energetic activities encourage children to keep fit and adopt an active healthy lifestyle.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a bright, well maintained and welcoming environment. They have suitable space and necessary facilities available to them which promotes their development, however, the children in the sports camp do not constantly have an area where they can relax, play quietly or rest if required. Staff generally ensure the environment is safe and effective procedures are in place to safeguard the children's welfare, for example, qualified and experienced staff are used for all specialist sporting activities, such as go-carting, to ensure all safety guidelines are followed.

Effective staff deployment within the crèche ensures that the children are safe and feel positively secure whilst they are in the setting. Staff in the sports camp are alert and observant in their supervision of the children. This is due to the centre being used by the public and having access to some areas used by the children. Children are generally well supervised, for example, during swimming sessions, there are adequate numbers of staff in the water with the children, and a qualified swimming teacher and poolside life guards. There are safe written procedures for children to visit the toilet. However, these are not followed consistently by some staff and as a result, children are on occasions, using public access toilets that have not been checked securely beforehand for other users. Children use good quality equipment during the holiday

club and crèche. The younger children are able to choose from a wide range of varied, developmentally suitable, good quality toys in the crèche room.

Staff are aware of child protection issues and the agreed procedures to be followed if there were concerns. Parents are made aware of these. The staff would act in the children's best interests if they had concerns for a child's welfare.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children have a good time at this setting. There is lots of laughter and smiles and staff clearly enjoy their time with all the children at the setting. Sessions both within the sports camp and crèche are very much child-led with a strong focus on children having the freedom to do what they wish. All children play with a good range of toys and play materials, with the children in the crèche having their self-esteem and confidence met well during activities. This is apparent when staff are playing and extending children's development through use of the animals, ball shape sorter and when using the emotion face board. Each child is able to choose activities that they would like to take part in and staff support them with their choice, for example, when undertaking sticking activities and soft play. All activities available to the children are well arranged to be easily accessible to them. This allows children to make their own decisions about what they do and promotes independence throughout.

Within the sports camp the children are able to self-select from a range of suitable activities, such as construction, art work and board games, which are obtained previously by staff. Throughout the day they enjoy and take an active part in a wide range of physical pre-planned activities, such as crab football, parachute games and dance mats. Although the programme is pre-arranged the staff are pro-active in listening to the wishes of children and will adapt the games to allow for the children's ideas and suggestions to be adhered to. This ensures that the children feel valued and supported as their ideas are considered and worked with to ensure enjoyment for all children.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and treated with equal concern and respect. Their individual needs and continuity of care is well supported by a good partnership with parents and effective communication between staff and parents; which is routinely completed at the beginning and end of each session the child attends. This is further supported through documentation obtained from the parents prior to the children starting at the setting. Children have access to a suitable range of resources that reflect positive images and different aspects of diversity daily. Staff show an active interest in what children are doing, they ask questions and communicate to them about their views, families and needs.

Children are polite and well behaved, and cooperate well with staff and each other. Staff and children work together to devise the rules for the sports camp daily and are reminded of these throughout the day. Staff are good role models, they are interested in what children say and sensitive to their feelings. Older children have limited opportunities to make independent choices about what they do during the day, for example, there are no alternative activities available for those not wishing to join in with sporting activities or group games. However,

children are never forced to participate; they may sit out and watch or join with other activities if they wish.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are grouped appropriately according to their age and ability and staff are generally well deployed to meet their needs. There are sufficient numbers of suitably qualified and soon to qualify staff to meet regulatory requirements. There are suitable induction arrangements but staff are not monitored thoroughly to ensure procedures are being consistently followed by all staff. Suitable and interesting activities are prepared, to ensure children's fulfilment at the provision, whilst meeting their developmental needs. Staff are effectively deployed throughout the setting which ensures children's needs are maintained.

All of the regulatory documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place but sometimes lacks sufficient detail, as the daily attendance register for the sports camp does show a clear departure time for children. The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting were set an action to improve their knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and put into place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant changes to staffing, so that Ofsted can make appropriate checks on their suitability. The setting have fully complied with the action and set suitable documentation in place to safeguard all children attending the setting.

## **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):

- ensure that children's safety is fully maintained in relation to staff following the settings policy for toilet checks

- ensure that departure times are detailed for the playscheme
- ensure that provision is available for children who wish to relax, play quietly or rest if required

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)