

Connaught Leisure Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	507919
Inspection date	28 May 2008
Inspector	Louise, Caroline Bonney
Setting Address	The Connaught School, Tongham Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 4AS
Telephone number	01252 344438
E-mail	connaughtleisurecentre@hotmail.com
Registered person	Rushmoor Borough Council
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Connaught Leisure Playscheme is run by Rushmore Borough Council, and is registered to provide out of school care for 96 children.

The scheme, which operates during school holidays throughout the year, accepts children from four (if in full-time education) to 12 years old. They support children with special needs. Children who attend come mainly from Aldershot and the surrounding towns.

Full day sessions are offered from 09:00 until 17:30, or part-day sessions from 09:00 until 15:30.

The scheme operates from the Connaught Leisure Centre, which is situated in the grounds of Connaught School on the Heronwood estate on the outskirts of Aldershot. The scheme offers mainly sports based activities in the main hall, sports hall, gym hall, drama studio and also outside within the school grounds.

There are 12 staff working with the children, of which none have qualifications, but three are working towards playworker qualifications at levels 2 and 3.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children participate in many sports based activities, indoors and out. In the gym they swing on ropes and use equipment to climb up and jump from. In the sports hall they play team games or group ball games, or play individually or in small groups with equipment such as balls, bats and hoops. They use the outside hard court and playing fields every day, weather permitting. This supports the children's health.

Children bring their own lunches which they eat together at tables or sitting on chairs in the main hall. Children have frequent breaks when staff encourage them to have a drink and snack. In hot weather staff take drinks to the activities and provide fruit to help keep children well hydrated. Staff prompt children to wash their hands appropriately. However, although records show daily checks are carried out, broken items, such as a toilet seat and soap dispenser, go unnoticed. This does not support good hygiene.

Child receive protection from illness through staff implementing their policy. This means unwell children do not attend the play scheme. Parents are contacted if children become unwell during sessions and collect their children early. This helps to prevent the spread of infection. Children have their medical needs met well by staff, who liaise closely with parents about the administration of medication. Parents share all records of accidents and medication, and staff seek consent to request emergency medical aid in case of accidents. There is always a first aid qualified member of staff on duty. This supports the children's health and provides continuity of care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play safely on apparatus that is carefully supervised by staff, such as the trampoline and gym equipment. The manager carries out risk assessments for the activities, although these are not written and there is no action plan in place to ensure identified hazards are reduced, such as toilet locks that cannot be opened from outside if necessary.

Children learn how to play safely through staff reminding them, although this is not systematically done to ensure all children are aware of the rules before activities, such as when using the ropes. Children clearly understand not to leave their groups, as access to the toilets is always supervised due to the premises being open to other users. Children participate in activities to raise their safety awareness, such as fire drills and life saving skills. They bring in wheeled equipment, such as bicycles and scooters, and staff set out a circuit for them to ride round. This helps provide children with challenges and to identify and manage suitable risks.

Staff show sufficient awareness of how to safeguard children and the signs of possible abuse. They know to immediately report any concerns to the supervisor and discuss child protection during their induction. The manager attends up-dating training and ensures procedures are in place and followed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Some children have been attending the play scheme for years. They enjoy meeting up with friends in other schools and know the names of the staff. Children are put into groups and staff ensure that friends or siblings stay together if they wish. Staff are sensitive to new children's needs, and link them with other children they know will help to ensure they enjoy themselves. They quickly check on any children sitting out during an activity to make sure they are alright, recognising that sometimes children just like to sit for a while or chat to a friend.

Children participate in a variety of activities, from sports based to art and craft. They very much enjoy using the gym apparatus, when they stretch themselves and take suitable risks as they climb and swing on the ropes, climb and jump from equipment set out. In the sports hall they practise shooting with the basket ball, play with hoops, hockey sticks and racquets. Staff lead some activities, such as circle games like 'hot potato' or trampolining. During art activities children paint and stick, such as when decorating plates and drawing with crayons.

Children do sometimes influence the provision. They have negotiated the use of games consoles with staff and can now access these at break times and staff take account of their preferences during activities. Staff's planning is basic but gives an outline to the day, and children express how they like knowing that the staff are organised. Children access satisfactory resources, although art activities are under-resourced at present. New resources are being ordered to improve the games available for small groups or individual children to enjoy at any time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children share information about the provision with their parents through printed leaflets and the new notice board. They feel welcome by staff who greet them on arrival as they sign in and the board at the entrance. Parents complete registration forms and staff seek information about children's individual needs, such as medication and allergies. Parents share their children's records, and all documentation is kept confidential. Parents are made aware that policies are available on request. This supports the development of trusting relationships between staff and parents. However, there is not a suitable complaints procedure or log to share with parents. This is in breach of regulations.

Staff manage children's behaviour suitably. They are aware of children's learning difficulties and/or disabilities and take these into account when managing them, ensuring they are participating well during activities. They approach children and quietly discuss any difficulties and children respond well to requests. Children show awareness of the boundaries as they develop the rules for the play scheme together. This helps the development of appropriate behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The provider has made some progress towards staff training since the last inspection. Three members of staff currently attending training programmes, and training has been identified for two other members in October. However, there are no qualified members of staff. This is in breach of the National Standards. The lack of training impacts on the provision of activities through planning and resourcing. The provider does not inform Ofsted of significant changes,

such as additionally opening on a Saturday. This is in breach of Regulations. The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Children are protected through the recruitment procedures in place, and all staff are thoroughly vetted before taking up their position. Induction takes place during the play scheme for most of the year, with an afternoon set aside for all staff to share policies and procedures before the summer scheme opens. This supports the children's safety and welfare. The provider implements, reviews and develops some policies and procedures which protect the children's welfare. However, contact details for Ofsted are incorrect and there is not a suitable complaints procedure or log.

Children are supported well during activities through required ratios being maintained, which also include those over eight. Staff maintain appropriate group sizes and allocate the areas to be used by the children so that they all access the various areas available.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was recommended to improve documentation and share this with parents, improve staff qualifications and choices for children. The provider has developed child protection procedures to include the procedure to follow should an allegation be made against a member of staff. This safeguards the children. Medication, accident and incident records are now held on a separate individual sheet per child. This ensures information remains confidential. A fire log is now in place, recording when fire drills are carried out. This improves children's safety by ensuring regular fire drills are held. There is a new notice board, which informs parents that policies are available in the reception office. This benefits the children by improving partnership with parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint

- keep a record of complaints relating to the national standards and any action taken
- develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare
- develop and implement an action plan that sets out how supervisors will achieve a level 3 qualification
- inform Ofsted of any significant changes.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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