



# Leighton Park Holiday Activity Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	116875
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 July 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Hazel Farrant
<b>Setting Address</b>	Leighton Park School, Old School, Shinfield Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 7ED
<b>Telephone number</b>	0118 9879600
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Leighton Park Holiday Activity Scheme
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Leighton Park Holiday Activity Scheme opened in 1992. The activities are based in the buildings and grounds of Leighton Park School in Reading. The scheme has use of a large sports hall, several classrooms, art studio, theatre, swimming pool and playing fields. There is a varied programme of sport-orientated activities on offer for the children.

The Holiday Activity Scheme opens five days a week during school holidays from 07:30 until 17:30. There are currently in excess of ninety children from five to fourteen years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The scheme supports children

with special needs. Leighton Park Enterprises Limited operates all year round and organises weekend activities and birthday parties.

Many of the staff have appropriate sports coaching qualifications and specific activities training. The leader has an appropriate qualification in play work and two other members of staff are about to start level two in play work. All the staff have first aid training and several are qualified life guards who supervise the swimming activities.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health within the setting is supported sufficiently by staff who have knowledge of most of the club's health and hygiene procedures. However, staff do not always follow all the correct procedures. For example, children's date of birth is not included in the accident record and parents do not sign the entry consistently. Therefore, children's welfare is not fully supported.

Children are independent in self-care skills. They enjoy physical exercise and learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle as they join in free-play and organised activities within the school building and outside areas. Children understand the importance of taking regular drinks as a way to maintain their health. They have many opportunities to drink water throughout the day, particularly during hot weather. Children bring their own lunch, snacks and drinks, they are encouraged to follow the schools ethos of no fizzy drinks or sweets.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident in their environment. They move around the different areas of the school with ease. Children's safety is promoted because staff ensure they give high supervision at all times. Children are safely escorted from one activity to the next, registers and head counts ensure children remain safe. Children are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe. They are reminded by staff how to play safely during large group games such as 'dodge ball'. Children are supported well by staff who have gained qualifications in specific sports, for example football and water activities.

Staff undertake daily checks and regular risk assessments to ensure children can play freely and safely in the areas identified for play. However, low electric sockets are accessible to children in these areas. Children are not always protected from visitors so their safety is compromised. For example not all visitors are challenged on arrival to the scheme.

Procedures to follow in the event of a fire are displayed within the areas of the school identified for the scheme to use. Staff are familiar with most policies and procedures

in place. For example, fire evacuation drills are completed regularly to encompass all the children who attend. Children remain safe because most staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and are secure in their understanding of child protection. All staff receive child protection training as part of their induction process so that children's well-being is supported.

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

The provision is good.

Children enter the scheme with ease; they converse well with other children and adults within the group. Relationships are good at all levels. Children have many opportunities for making choice. They join in with a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities with enthusiasm. Children are aware of the resources available and ask if they can use the equipment they wish to use, such as the bouncy castle which a small group of children wished to play on.

Children use a wide range of toys and equipment appropriate to their age and interest. Staff ensure that children have a good variety of resources available to them and support their play appropriately. Children choose their own activities and have times for quieter play particularly during hot weather. Children enjoy the company of the other children and staff. Staff take time to talk to the children about their day and family lives; children feel valued and respected.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions and make choices and decisions.

Children are generally well behaved. They know what is expected of them because staff give sufficient support to ensure they understand the behaviour boundaries. Children with special needs are supported within the group. Equipment and resources are adapted to ensure all children are able to participate. However, children have limited access to resources that reflect positive images of diversity. All children respect and understand that some children need extra help and willingly support those who do. However, not all children are treated as individuals during large group activities. For example, a football game organised for a large mixed age range of children resulted in the younger children missing opportunities of joining in during the match. Therefore, not all individual needs are consistently met during large group activities.

Relationships with parents are friendly with opportunities at the end of the session to exchange information regarding their child. Parents have opportunities to find out more about the club and the activities their children are involved in. For example, there is a notice board which contains information about activities and daily plans.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

There have been some changes to the staff employed at the scheme. The supervisor holds a National Vocational Qualification at level three in play work. she understands her responsibilities within the provision and organises the documentation, policies and procedures within the setting. However some documentation is not in place and procedures are not always followed consistently. For example accident records do not contain the child's date of birth and some records are not signed by parents. A visitors book is used but not consistently. Staff have undertaken checks and most documentation is available to support this. Staff hold qualifications specific to their expertise in a particular sport. Although these qualifications are highly regarded, staff need to be working towards a recognised qualification in play work in order to fully support children who attend the scheme.

Ofsted are informed of significant changes that may affect the care of the children within the setting, therefore children's well-being is promoted. There are policies and procedures in place which are specific to the activity scheme, these are shared with parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The provider was asked at the last Children Act inspection to develop an action plan detailing how at least 50% of staff will become qualified. The leader now has a National Vocational Qualification level three (NVQ3) in play work and the two play leaders will be starting NVQ level 2 in play work in the near future. The group are committed to on-going training for all staff so that children are fully supported.

## **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 all accessible low electric sockets are safe and keep an accurate record of all visitors
- review resources to include positive images of diversity
- ensure large group activities are organised to meet all the children's needs
- update and review documentation
- ensure 50% of staff are suitably trained in play work

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)