



Wellington Sports Centre Mini Camps

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142836
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Registered person	Taunton Deane 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Wellington Sports Centre is a charitable trust which is one of three sports centres operated by Tone Leisure, in partnership with Taunton Deane Borough Council. Giant camp is a school holiday play scheme which has been registered since 1993. The "mini" club caters for a maximum of 40 children aged 4 to under 8 years at any one time. It operates daily in the main school holidays from 08.30 to 16.30 with extra supervision offered until 17.30. There are currently 149 children on roll.

The setting provides a fully inclusive programme of activities in order to support children with special needs who attend. A variety of rooms are used within the sports

centre depending on the activity provided. This includes the use of the swimming pool.

The sports centre employs 13 staff to work with the children. Of these, 7 are working towards a Level 1 certificate, 4 hold a Level 2 certificate and 2 are currently working towards Level 3. In addition, staff are qualified to coach golf, basketball, swimming and use of the trampoline.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from participating in a variety of physical activities which improves their fitness. For example, weekly themes include ball games, trampolining, dancing and swimming. However, children's health is affected by the inadequate ventilation of the centre and the limited availability for children to access drinks to keep them cool. Children stop for a drink from a water fountain after physical activity which lasts approximately 45 minutes. However, the organisation of this facility hampers children's opportunity to access drinking water at their own pace.

Children's allergies and medication needs are recognised by staff. However, children's welfare is compromised by the lack of staff's knowledge in recording children's medication needs, for example, not all staff are aware of the procedures in place. In addition, accident forms are not always fully completed to explain the cause of events and are not signed by parents, which impacts on children's continuity of care. Several staff hold first aid certificates to ensure children's accidents can be treated effectively. Children have access to appropriate hygiene facilities.

Children are adequately informed about healthy food choices and encouraged to try a variety of fruits and smoothies through planned activities. Children's dietary requirements are met by parents providing lunch and snacks. However, staff are inconsistent in promoting healthy eating. For example, their policy is to encourage children to eat nutritional items first, but children select crisps and chocolate first and staff do not comment. This has a negative impact on children's health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to be aware of safety issues through staff's effective explanations of the emergency evacuation procedures at the start of each session. Children benefit from this being practised on a different day each week. However, fire drills are insufficiently recorded to be linked with risk assessments, which compromises children's safety. Children's safety is compromised in the building, as they have access to uncovered electrical sockets and access to staff's bags, which are left unguarded in the children's main meeting area. The systems for the arrival and collection of children are appropriate in keeping children safe, as they are signed in and out by authorised carers.

Children comply with the effective systems in place during swimming sessions, which make sure they can change their clothes and enter the pool safely. For example, children use the family changing area in small groups, which is mainly used solely by them. They are adequately supported and supervised by staff during this time and children safely wait at the pool's edge with additional staff until everyone is ready. Once all staff have changed, children are effectively organised according to their age and swimming abilities, with dedicated members of staff and lifeguards to ensure their safety at all times.

Children's welfare is adequately promoted by the staff's sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, the support of senior staff responsible for child protection and the availability of comprehensive policies. However, children's welfare is somewhat compromised by the lack of detail in the procedures to be followed if allegations are made against staff, which does not include notifying Ofsted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happy and listen attentively during registration. They are generally interested in the range of activities provided. Children particularly enjoy the swimming sessions and are enthusiastic when using the soft play equipment, although some children choose a colouring activity instead. However, children become dissatisfied when programmed resources are not available. For example, when the parachute cannot be found, staff organise a more physical group activity. This extends into the next planned session, and leaves children hot and tired. Some children sit out of further games and watch quietly as no other alternatives are offered or available.

Children are confident to approach staff who are sensitive to children's needs and encourage them to participate without insisting. Children have the opportunity to work as part of a team and to further their skills on solo tasks, for example, when responding to clear instructions during swimming sessions or when using the trampoline.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children generally behave well and happily comply with staff's instructions when using equipment and enjoying activities. Children benefit from a generally effective partnership with parents whereby the sports centre provides parents with information on their policies and procedures. Parents share information at registration about their children to prepare staff on their care needs. For example, setting up buddy systems to help and encourage shy children to build friendships.

Children are respected as individuals and not made to join in but have little opportunity to have an input into the daily programme. They feel valued when staff listen and respond sensitively to their opinions, issues or concerns. However, not all

children have the opportunity to watch the DVD at lunchtime due to poor organisation of the environment, which staff have not considered. Children are learning about diversity through planned themes and activities, for example, Japanese writing, Aboriginal art and around the world quizzes.

Children with special needs benefit from having the support of a named co-ordinator and a comprehensive inclusion policy. This ensures that one-to-one support is available for children if needed, and that activities are adapted according to their individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are cared for by a friendly, caring staff team who are all suitably inducted and vetted. However, some children are not aware of staff's names, as not all wear their name badges. Children are adequately supported through effective staff deployment and consistent adult to child ratios which are increased appropriately when needed, for example, when supervising swimming sessions. Staff are encouraged to train through ongoing appraisals, with six obtaining or working towards level 2 or 3. The rest of the staff are currently doing level 1 and most of these are also specialist sport coaches. Documents are securely stored and kept confidential.

Staff have a general awareness of risk assessments but are currently not identifying all potential hazards. The recording of daily registers is appropriate although recording of fire drills and accidents are ineffective. The preparation of resources, such as, planned equipment, tables and chairs and water are poorly organised. Also, the use and volume of centre music. For example, during a physical game children become confused as the music is so loud they cannot hear staff's instructions.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection, two recommendations were raised; to review the range of toys and games for small group and individual play and, to time the walk through the fire drills with children.

The centre have a range of resources suitable for small group and individual play, but these are not accessible to children, or offered by the staff as alternatives to programmed activities. This impacts on children's enjoyment.

The recording of fire drills is still insufficient to fully inform risk assessments, which compromises children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

On 17th August 2004 a concern was raised about a child using the facility relating to child protection. An investigation took place and the provider responded to the

concerns. As a result, two actions were raised relating to National Standard 13, Child Protection and National Standard 14, Documentation. The provider has responded and improved their policies and practice. The provider remains suitable for registration.

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 adequate ventilation of the building and ensure that drinking water is freely accessible to meet children's individual needs
- develop risk assessments and staff's knowledge to ensure all potential hazards are identified and actions are taken to minimise risks
- improve preparation procedures to ensure that planned resources are in place prior to children's use and that equipment is available to meet their needs, with particular attention to lunch time
- improve systems to ensure the recording of accidents are comprehensive and shared with parents.

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