



Connaught Leisure Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Connaught Leisure Playscheme is registered to provide out of school care for 96 children.

The scheme, which operates during school holidays throughout the year, accepts children from 4 (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 to 17:30, or part-day sessions from 09:00 to

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 various activities to keep children both challenged and occupied. Supervised activities take place in the main hall, sports hall, gym hall, drama studio and also outside within the school grounds.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children understand the importance of good personal hygiene through established daily routines. They know, for example, to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating, and staff are on-hand to remind younger children to do so. Staff protect children from infection through following their sickness procedures, although these are not shared with parents.

Children enjoy a sociable and relaxing break as they eat their packed lunches. Staff frequently encourage children to have drinks of water during the course of the day, particularly after energetic games such as football.

Children have good opportunities for developing their physical skills, both on site and at the nearby play park. Staff plan various energetic physical challenges which the children enjoy, such as developing football skills and using gym equipment, or as they participate in parachute games. Children listen to their bodies and are able to rest and be active according to their needs. Staff also plan more restful activities during the day, such as watching a video, or art and craft activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe through the vigilance of staff, and the use of risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. The children benefit from the safe and spacious accommodation, where they can play inside and outside. Children use good quality equipment, which is suitable for their size and stage of development. Staff have a clear understanding of how to provide a balance between providing challenges and setting safe limits. This helps children to learn some sense of danger and to develop the ability to protect themselves from harm as, for example, they climb ropes and jump from high benches.

Children feel confident and secure in their environment through the good deployment of staff working directly with them. They understand the clear rules which help safeguard them, such as always asking a member of staff before leaving the group, or how to use equipment appropriately. Parents are aware of the effective procedures for the collection of children which contribute to the children's safety.

Children are sufficiently protected from abuse by staff who have a basic understanding of child protection issues and who give priority to children's welfare, although these are not sufficiently supported by procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have excellent relationships with the staff and each other, and form firm friendships. They show care towards each other, and children with special needs are well-supported and fully participate in all activities. Children find the planned activities stimulating and fun. Staff encourage team work and support the children well during activities. Children play co-operatively during well-organised activities such as football and parachute games. They use their initiative well as their team makes a cave with large gym equipment, when older children interact well with younger children, taking on their ideas and helping them implement them. They develop their imagination as they make collages with pasta and model with clay, and take part in drama sessions. Children are confident and develop good self-esteem as staff value their contributions, listen carefully to them as they express their thoughts and preferences, and respond thoughtfully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children and parents feel welcome as the supervisor greets them on arrival. Children benefit from the positive relationships staff develop with parents and the information they share daily on handover. Children behave very well, and are aware of the group's rules, helping to draw up a code of behaviour for the playscheme. They play well during team games such as football, co-operate as they build caves, share and take turns well during parachute games. The staff provide clear and consistent boundaries for the children, using age appropriate methods to manage behaviour such as explanation and encouragement.

Staff value the children as individuals, and listen carefully to their ideas and concerns. Children confidently express their preferences, such as their wish to be in their friend's group, which staff quickly organise. However, there are limited opportunities for children to contribute to activity plans and make independent choices about their activities.

The staff seek information from parents, which helps them to meet the children's individual needs, and they effectively provide for children with special needs. Children are relaxed and comfortable in the provision and show a sense of belonging, many having attended for a number of years.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provider has in place documentation, procedures and policies, which work in practice to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. However, the child protection and complaints procedures, fire log, medication, and confidentiality of accident/incident records require further development, and information about most procedures is not shared with parents.

Staff organise resources, time and staff well. Staff are experienced, clearly deployed and work well together as a team. They have resources ready for use, and large gym equipment set out ready for the children. Children are grouped prior to arrival, but this is flexible and staff make adjustments to reflect any expressed preferences. The supervisor carefully plans and timetables a good variety of activities, which makes best use of the available space, indoors and outdoors.

Staff receive suitable induction training to ensure the safety and welfare of the children. The manager is improving staff training through the implementation of the training action plan. Overall, the needs of all children who attend are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last Children Act inspection recommended that the playscheme should develop staff training to meet minimum requirements, to develop their understanding of child protection, and to ensure written policies, procedures and records are in place and shared with parents and staff.

The Manager has made some improvements to documentation and staff training, and their awareness of child protection issues.

He has developed a training action plan which is being implemented, and the Supervisor is currently attending courses for level two and three qualifications in playwork. The Manager has now attended an initial child protection course, and shares knowledge gained from this with the staff. Some documentation has been improved, and staff are aware of policies and procedures, including those relating to child protection, which work in practice to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Parents are not informed of many of the procedures in place.

Recommendations are raised to support the further development and sharing of documentation and the continued improvement in staff qualifications.

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 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):

- continue to improve documentation and share with parents, to include contact details for Ofsted in complaints policy, a procedure to follow should allegations of child abuse be made against a member of staff, confidentiality of accident and incident records, and the maintenance of a fire log
- continue to implement the staff training action plan to achieve the minimum qualifications required, and to support provision of increased opportunities for children to make choices about their activities

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