



## Thamesmere Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY242993
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Lara Hickson

<b>Setting Address</b>	Thamesmere Leisure Centre, Thamesmere Drive, Thamesmead, London, SE28 8RE
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8311 1119
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Greenwich Leisure Limited
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Thamesmere Leisure Centre is a purpose built leisure centre including: a swimming pool, fitness room, multi-purposes activity suite, group exercise classes, Toddler's World activity sessions, sauna, a function suite and a crèche.

The crèche operates on Monday from 09.00-14.30, Tuesday from 09.00-14.30, Wednesday from 09.00-14.30 and 18.15-21.00, Thursday from 12.00-14.30 and Friday from 09.30-14.30. The crèche is available only for parents and guardians participating in activities within the centre. Children can be left in the crèche for a maximum of two hours at any one time. The crèche can be used a second time

during a day providing that children are taken out of it for a minimum of 30 minutes for a break.

The crèche is registered for 10 children aged from 6 weeks to under 5 years, of these not more than 3 may be under 2 years at any one time. The crèche supports children with Special Educational Needs and with English as an additional language. Currently there are 104 children on roll who attend for a variety of sessions throughout the week for a maximum of two hours at any one time.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Although children bring bottles of milk or drinks from home and are encouraged by staff to have a drink during the crèche session, food is not allowed within the crèche facility. Staff explained that this is to ensure that no child has access to food that they may be allergic to or not allowed to eat.

A number of staff hold a current first aid qualification which enables the crèche to provide appropriate care in the event of an accident or emergency. All entries in the accident book are recorded appropriately with details of the accident, action taken and a parental signature. There have only been three accidents recorded for the whole of 2005.

Staff encourage the older children to develop independent hygiene practices, for example, through learning to wipe their own noses. Staff wipe the younger children's noses. Children are prevented from the spread of infection because clear hygiene procedures are in place, for example, anti-bacterial spray is used, toys are cleaned regularly and a Sickness Policy outlines the crèche's commitment to preventing the spread of infection. The Sickness Policy states children with infectious illnesses are to be excluded which protects other children from any potential risk of infection.

Children's physical development is limited within the crèche due to space restrictions and the lack of an outside area. However, staff incorporate some dancing and physical games involving jumping and hopping with some of the older children. The staff team also ensure that they provide activities that extend the children's fine motor skills, for example, children have opportunities to develop small muscle control through using sewing cards, construction resources and drawing and colouring. These resources encourage the children to build, manipulate and join small pieces of puzzle or construction equipment together.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The crèche premises are safe and secure and appropriate safety precautions are in place to minimise the risk of accidents. Children have access to, and use, a sufficient range of developmentally appropriate resources. Children benefit from the

crèche staff's regular checks on the toys and equipment with regards to safety and cleanliness. All toys, resources and equipment are kept safe, clean and in good condition due to these checks and the staff team's understanding of age appropriate activities. This ensures the children's ongoing safety. Toys and activities suitable for the children's ages and abilities can be safely and independently selected.

The crèche staff team talk to the children about safe practices and the consequences of their actions, for example, that throwing toys may hurt others. This enables children to begin to develop an understanding of keeping themselves and others safe. Although regular checks are made on the fire alarms and extinguishers, fire drills are not practised within the crèche when children are present. A general risk assessment system within the Leisure Centre together with checks made by staff within the crèche room ensures potential hazards are identified and reduced.

The crèche team have completed additional training on Child Protection and have updated their knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. This ensures that staff are aware of child protection policies and understand the procedures to follow if they have any concerns regarding abuse or neglect.

The crèche team implement systems to keep children safe, for example, maintaining a visitors record, ensuring staff ratios are maintained and ensuring that access to the crèche is safely monitored and managed at the main reception area.

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

The provision is good.

Children arrive confidently and are happy and settled within the setting. They approach members of the staff team with ease. New children are well supported by staff and effective settling in procedures enable children to settle quickly. The staff team support the children's individual needs well, taking into account their different ages and stages of development.

A varied selection of toys and activities are used and rotated well to stimulate the children's interest and enjoyment. The staff team interact positively with the children to encourage conversation and extend the children's vocabulary and play opportunities. Children have good relationships with staff who sit with them and encourage their play and learning.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem as a result of the crèche team's continuous praise and encouragement of their attempts and achievements. The children independently select from the wide range of activities available and their child initiated play is supported and extended by the crèche team.

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

The provision is good.

Children attending the crèche generally behave well and respond positively to the routines and expectations within the crèche. The behaviour strategies used by staff

are reflective of each child's age, stage and level of understanding. Children settle well due to the staff team working closely in partnership with parents to meet children's individual needs. Children benefit from effective communication and a two way sharing of information between their parents and their crèche carers. Parents feel that they can use the facilities at the Leisure Centre knowing that they can trust the experienced, consistent staff team to provide good quality care for their children. One parent said that she liked the "consistency of staff which enabled continuity of care".

The crèche team are committed to providing equality of opportunity for all children and this is reflected in the equal opportunities and special needs policies. Children have access to a range of resources depicting positive images of race, culture, disability and gender to extend their awareness of diversity within society. For example, there is a range of small world people, dolls, books and puzzles that reflect diversity within the community. The crèche staff demonstrate a positive attitude towards non-stereotypical play.

Staff are aware of each child's character and individual stage of development, for example, how they integrate, how they settle and what stage of development they are at. The crèche staff demonstrate an awareness of each child's cultural background and any additional language spoken at home. They have asked parents to inform them of any special words that the child uses and have learnt to say hello and goodbye in a number of different languages spoken by the families that attend the crèche. The crèche cares for children from Germany, Greece, South America, Portugal, Spain, India, South Africa, Cyprus, America, Nigeria, Italy, Africa, Ireland and Albania.

The crèche team demonstrate a positive yet realistic approach to minding a child with special needs and have previous experience of looking after children with a number of different additional needs. Staff ensure that all children are able to access the crèche and are made to feel welcome. The staff team explained that they would assess the level of care and support required following consultation with the child's parents. Support workers and one-to-one carers are welcome within the crèche to look after a child with special needs although the crèche is not able to offer one-to-one care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Sufficient procedures are in place to ensure suitability of staff. All of the required policies and procedures are in place and records are stored confidentially. However, some documentation has not been recorded appropriately, for example parental signatures have not been obtained and some entries have been completed in pencil. Although generally confidentiality is maintained within the crèche, the recording of some incidents have breached confidentiality.

Children are happy and settled within the crèche environment. They are at ease with the experienced, consistent staff team and are able to access a range of play activities and resources. The registration certificate is displayed and generally

records are in place and appropriately maintained. The booking in policy, registration and settling procedures work well in practice and ensure children are happy and safe within the crèche setting.

Although the staff team are experienced and have worked at the setting for a number of years currently the Crèche Leader does not hold the required NVQ Level 3 qualification.

Overall the needs of the range of children attending are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

There was a play-scheme which no longer operates from Thamesmere Leisure Centre and therefore recommendations made at the last inspection which applied to the Holiday Play-scheme are no longer relevant.

At the last inspection a number of recommendations were made for the crèche, and it now has a full set of policies and procedures that form an operational plan, which includes child protection, equal opportunities, management of children's behaviour and children uncollected or lost.

The staff team demonstrate a knowledge of the Code of Practice for children with special needs and have experience of caring for children with a number of different needs within the crèche.

The crèche now has a selection of resources depicting positive images of diversity and also have some additional resources on order.

All staff have now completed additional child protection training and are able to put local Area Child Protection Committee procedures into practice.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

A concern was raised on the 5 April 2005 relating to National Standard 6: Safety. The concern related to staff consuming hot drinks within the crèche room whilst children were present. An Ofsted inspector made an unannounced visit on the 8 April 2005 and the concern was discussed with a staff member. There was evidence that the provider has taken steps to improve this situation and has implemented systems to ensure this does not occur again. No further action has been required.

The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 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 that a separate fire evacuation is completed for the crèche on a regular basis
- ensure that all entries in documentation records are completed in ink and are countersigned by parents
- ensure that confidentiality is maintained in all areas, particularly with regards to recording incidents
- outline how the creche will ensure that a member of staff within a supervisory role holds a level 3 qualification.

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)