



Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	219161
Inspection date	02 November 2005
Inspector	Margaret Coyne
Setting Address	Mentmore Road, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, Bedfordshire, LU7 7PA
Telephone number	01525 375765
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Registered person	Leisure Connection Ltd.
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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?

Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre Crèche has been operating since 1994 and operates from the Leisure Centre in Linslade near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The crèche have sole use of 1 room with kitchen and toilet facilities. The crèche is for the use of leisure centre customers and parents must remain on site. A maximum of 20 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 09.00 to 15.00 and on Thursday from 09.00 to 13.00 for 51 weeks of the year. Children may attend a variety of sessions but can attend for a maximum time of 2 hours in any day.

The numbers of children on roll fluctuates throughout the year depending on parents accessing the crèche through the leisure centre. Children attend from a wide catchment area.

The nursery employs 4 permanent staff and 2 relief staff. All permanent staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. The crèche receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through well-managed routines. Most children wash their hands after using the toilet and gentle reminders ensure children remember personal hygiene such as covering their mouths when coughing and sneezing. Staff tidy up as they work, ensure equipment is clean and check the toilets periodically throughout the day. Staff observe adequate nappy changing procedures by wearing gloves and aprons and dispose of nappies in a hygienic manner. This prevents the spread of infection and supports sufficient levels of cleanliness for children, within the environment. Suitable procedures are carried out to ensure all accidents are documented and shared with parents. However, parents are not asked to sign the entry in the accident book so they are fully aware of any accidents when they collect their child. There are staff on the premises who are trained to administer first aid. However, no staff working directly with the children hold a current certificate although this has been recognised and is being addressed. Medication is not administered to children as parents are on the premises and can quickly be contacted should this arise.

Children have access to a small snack during their time in the crèche and parents bring in milk and children's drinks from home in a labelled bottle. This ensures good hygiene is maintained. Extra water and juice is available to the children at any time and staff have a sound awareness that children require extra drinks in hot weather.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They develop self confidence in their physical skills as they join in with the wide range of activities. For example, a baby gym, seesaw, sit and ride cars and animals. These develop their large motor control and help develop their muscles. Children also develop their dexterity and hand-eye coordination skills with a range of shape sorters, small equipment, jigsaws and creative materials. Staff are on hand to guide and assist the children sharing new skills and increasing children's confidence and abilities. Children are able to rest according to their needs and come to staff for cuddles and quiet times. Children do not have access to an outdoor area.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay safe because the premises are secure and well-maintained. Staff are

vigilant about children's safety and supervision is effective as they supervise the children and join in with their play. A risk assessment is carried out to ensure all areas of risk to the children are identified and reduced. Daily safety checks are also carried out by staff as they put out and clear away toys and equipment. Staff know which children are attending, as parents pre-book places. This aids staff when planning safe activities and staff deployment. Children play an active role in their own safety as they notify staff if equipment is broken. Children have a secure understanding of the boundaries and this helps them remain safe and secure. Fire safety equipment is in place and staff have a sensible approach to fire safety. Their responsibilities have been clearly defined and an evacuation procedure is in place and practised by the whole building. However, children are rarely involved in this and do not gain an understanding of emergency evacuation.

Children are able to access a range of age-appropriate furniture, toys and equipment which encourages them to play and have fun in a safe environment. Activities are well presented at the children's height and staff are on hand to support the children during their play. At present, few older children attend the crèche and there is a limited supply of resources available however staff ensure their needs are met through a range of activities when they do attend.

Child protection procedures are understood by staff and children remain protected. Consistent recruitment and induction procedures ensure that adults are suitable to work with children. This includes experience, training and vetting checks. Children's safety is paramount as staff share responsibility with parents. Staff are confident in their knowledge of child protection, reporting concerns appropriately to senior staff and documentation is in place to support them in the event of any concerns although there is no system in place to record concerns in a confidential manner. A child protection policy is in place. However this does not contain a clear procedure to follow in the event of any allegations made against a member of staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are involved with a varied range of well-planned activities. The children attending are stimulated and occupied throughout the session. They have developed a sense of belonging in the group and most children are secure and confident. The children have built a valuable rapport with the adults and enjoy time with them. Younger children benefit from staff working directly with them sharing their play and extending this with new experiences. Children make their own choices and decisions about their play and move happily and freely between activities developing their independence.

Children have positive attitudes and are confident, happy and secure as they play well together. Staff praise the children and ensure activities are well presented to encourage them to participate. During creative activities children have opportunity to work at their own pace using their own skills when completing art and craft work. Some creative work is well displayed to make the room interesting, stimulating and colourful. This also helps develop children's self-esteem and confidence. The

relationships staff have with the children help inspire and develop their imaginations, sense of belonging, self-reliance and sense of security. They listen to the children as they engage in conversation with some children being full of humour and very vocal. Staff have created a suitable balance between adult and child-led play and know when to step back to allow children to use their independence and take responsibility for organising their own activity. For example, when taking part in imaginative play. Sensitive settling in procedures help build children's confidence and belonging. When new starters become upset, staff deal with this very well. Immediately contact parents, by public address system, to return to the crèche. Staff offer comfort to the child, give cuddles and reassurance until parent returns.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children attend from a variety of backgrounds and all children are warmly welcomed into the crèche. All children are treated with equal care, concern and respect. Staff ensure that resources positively represent the children who attend as well as the wider community. This impacts on the positive attitude the children show to each other and the staff attending. Staff are aware that if a child has a special need that they can take positive steps to ensure they can meet the needs of the child working closely with parents.

Children share responsibility for their behaviour as they understand the boundaries in place and the expectations of staff for them to behave in a caring and kind manner. Children are reminded regularly about being kind and caring to others and staff lead this by example. Meaningful and purposeful strategies are employed by staff to guide children towards acceptable behaviour patterns. Overall these work very well and a harmonious atmosphere prevails throughout the crèche with children and staff playing happily together. Children attend for short sessions but are occupied in a meaningful way, not having time to get bored, restless or disruptive.

Partnerships with parents are effective. Most records and documentation is available for parents to see and information about activities is provided in the form of leaflets, posters and on the notice board. Parents can exchange information with staff at arrival and collection times when staff are on hand to discuss any issues and to share information about their child's time in the crèche. Staff's friendly and open attitude promotes the good relationships which impact on the children's security within the setting. Information about the children is gained on their registration forms to aid staff to meet their needs effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Policies and procedures are in place and generally implemented to keep children healthy, and safeguard their welfare. All staff hold a child care qualification and have gained a suitable level of experience working with children in the crèche. Staff work very well together as a team and the supervisor supports the staff and ensures they

are aware of their roles and responsibilities to the children. However, a named deputy has not been appointed to take charge in the absence of the supervisor. A registration system is used to gain details of the children attending and to give staff a clear indication of how many children will attend each day. Parents sign children in and out of the provision and this provides clear evidence of how many children are attending at any one time and helps staff maintain ratios in line with their registration.

Staff are deployed in an organised and effective manner to meet the needs of the children and to ensure the smooth operation of the crèche. Activities and space are organised to ensure children can access the range of play opportunities available. A sound balance of activities has been created for the children, taking into consideration their different ages and abilities. Documentation is reasonably organised to meet the needs of the children. However, the public liability insurance document was not available for inspection or displayed for parents information. Overall, the crèche meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to develop their policies and procedures and to make them available for parents and staff, to develop storage to enable children to make their own choices about play and to ensure parents are aware of the complaints procedure including full details of the regulator.

Most actions have been addressed and one requires further updates. The policies and procedures are now contained in one folder and are made accessible to parents and staff to ensure the appropriate and safe care of children. The behaviour policy and the child protection policy require some updates to be included with regard to bullying and allegations against a member of staff. Large storage boxes are used and placed with some activities to allow children freedom of choice when selecting items to extend their play. A complaints procedure is in place and available for parents including Ofsted's contact details should any parents wish to raise a concern about the care provided for their child.

Complaints since the last inspection

Concerns were raised about the very high temperatures in this provision due the air conditioning being broken. This relates to National Standard 4: Physical Environment. Ofsted made an unannounced visit to the provision on 15th July 2005 and as a result set 3 actions. These were under standard 3: provide details of how activities are adapted to meet the needs of children in hot weather; standard 4: ensure contingency plans are in place when the temperature in the crèche facility is high; and standard 14: provide details of any records kept detailing circumstances of high temperatures and the management of the provision during this time. These actions will be checked at the next inspection. The provider remains qualified for registration.

A satisfactory action response has been received from provider.

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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that at least one member of staff who works directly with the children has completed an appropriate first aid course and that parents are informed of all accidents to their child and their signatures are obtained for each entry in the accident record
- ensure children develop an understanding of emergency evacuation procedures
- ensure a confidential system is in place to record any child protection concerns and to update the child protection policy to include a procedure to follow in the event of any allegations made against a member of a staff
- ensure there is a named deputy who is able to take charge in the absence of the manager
- ensure records and documents are well organised and available for inspection and ensure the public liability insurance certificate is displayed at all times

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