

# Birchwood Leisure Centre Playscheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	148164
<b>Inspection date</b>	07/04/2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Parker
<b>Setting address</b>	Longmead, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 0AS
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<b>Email</b>	
<b>Type of setting</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises

## Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

## **Description of the setting**

Birchwood Leisure Centre Playscheme operates as a holiday play scheme in the Birchwood Leisure Centre in Hatfield. It is run by Hatfield Town Council. The play scheme is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 40 children may attend the playscheme at any one time. There are currently 28 children on roll, of which two are in the early year's age group. No children in the early year's age range were present at the time of inspection. The setting employs 10 members of staff, of whom, six are qualified.

The setting is open during the school holidays from 08.30 until 17.30, Monday to Friday.

The setting supports children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and those for whom English is an additional language.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Through an effective partnership with parents and carers, confidential record keeping and observation, children's individual needs are met. Risks are minimised and children are protected as all staff have undertaken safeguarding children training. Children gain new experiences at this setting, which compliments their learning and development. Staff are in the process of developing a self-evaluation of the provision.

## **What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?**

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop children's understanding of eating healthily and provide healthy snacks
- develop the use of observations to identify learning priorities for children in the early years age range

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

This playscheme is run by Hatfield Town Council. The manager is very experienced and ensures that the staff team are suitably qualified, experienced and suitable to work with children. She ensures that all the required documentation is in place and underpins the sound practice. Staff are effectively deployed to supervise the children's safety, ensuring that effective boundaries and routines teach children how to behave positively in this setting. Their own talents and areas of expertise are used well, for example, staff with early year's knowledge and experience are involved with the younger children attending. They are effectively observing the children and linking these observations to the early learning goals. Staff provide suitable activities to challenge the children and encourage their next steps in learning and development. Children who have learning difficulties and/or

disabilities receive additional support to ensure that their individual needs are met. Detailed consultations with parents, carers and other professionals, enable the staff to meet the individual needs of all children attending and ensure that all children are fully included in the setting.

Staff provide snacks and drink for the children; this is usually a biscuit. Staff are beginning to introduce fruit as a snack. Children's lunches are provided by parents. Information is given to parents regarding healthy eating and safe storage of packed lunches. Any medical or dietary needs of the children are recorded. Any necessary medication will be administered by qualified staff with written permission from parents or carers.

Children use three main areas within the leisure centre; the activity room with slides, swings tunnels, nets and soft play where the children can use all their muscles and develop their physical skills. This area is large enough for children to make dens and create their own games. A separate area is used for younger children to protect them from the older, more active children if required. A second room is used for all other activities, whether it be role play, a rest area, TV or a number of craft activities. A fully equipped gym is used for many sporting activities, as well as games with hoops and beanbags. Outside, the children use the field as well as an enclosed park with usual park equipment such as swings and slides. Children are supervised at all times and staff ensure that they keep to the required minimum ratios and children learn safe routines such as informing staff when they need to go to the toilet; they always go in two's and a member of staff always supervises the communal areas where members of the public mix with children. All staff have received training on safeguarding children and secure procedures and policies are in place.

There were no children in the early years age group attending at the time of the inspection. Staff are beginning to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) with the few children attending this playscheme. Observations assessing the children's capabilities and interests are undertaken and these are linked to the early learning goals to monitor their progress. Taking into account the fact that this setting only operates in school holidays and the majority of the children attending are not in the EYFS, the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage is developing adequately.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children are encouraged to choose their own activities and resources from those available. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Children are learning how to be healthy and the benefits of physical exercise for their bodies. They have fun climbing, swinging, sliding and jumping in the safe, soft play area. They bring their own packed lunches, and have a regular snack provided by the staff. Children are offered a biscuit, a drink and sometimes fruit. The children adopt the rules and routines of the playscheme and their behaviour is effectively managed. Any bullying, either verbal or physical is not tolerated. Children are encouraged to express any excess energy in the numerous physical and sports-type activities provided. They are learning how to keep themselves safe when using the equipment, playing outside and when needing to enter the communal public areas. Children know they need to go in twos and inform a member of staff for their own

safety. All areas used by the children are risk assessed by staff each day and appropriate precautions are in place to keep them safe.

Children really enjoy their time at this playscheme. They make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Their physical skills are developing rapidly in this environment. They are developing their social skills as they share, take turns and work cooperatively together to create games of their own. Children who do not want to be so active can participate in a range of art and craft activities, practice their mark-making skills, share books or rest quietly. Children can dress-up and role play and watch suitable TV and films in the quiet time after lunch. Children from all backgrounds and abilities are welcomed into this playscheme. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are fully included if parents and staff agree that this is the correct setting for them. Additional support is given to children who need it by appropriately experienced staff.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	3
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## **Annex B: the Childcare Register**

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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## **Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted**

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

### **Detail of the complaint/s**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.