

Escape from Parents

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number EY387047
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Setting address Kingswood Leisure Centre, Church Road, Soundwell,
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Type of setting 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 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

Escape From Parents is the name of holiday activity schemes run by South Gloucestershire Leisure Trust at four leisure centres across South Gloucestershire. The scheme operating from Kingswood Leisure Centre generally runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during school holidays and operates from 09.00 to 15.30 hours. Actual days and times should be confirmed in advance and are usually displayed in the centre. Children bring a packed lunch. Children aged four to 11 years, in full time education may attend. The setting is registered to care for up to 40 children from four years to under eight years. Children have use of different areas of the centre, including the sports hall and learner pool, at various times of the day. Children are generally grouped according to age for activities and access to the public toilets and changing areas is supervised by scheme staff. The manager has a child care qualification and the staff team have a variety of qualifications. These include training in specific areas, such as trampolining, swimming and football coaching. The building is accessible and a hoist is available for access to the pool if required. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and both compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The numbers of children on roll varies according to the time of year.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The quality of the provision overall is satisfactory. Children benefit from sufficiently varied activities during the day and appear content. Their welfare is promoted as staff supervise their activities appropriately and a base room within the centre provides a sense of security. Systems to ensure consistency amongst staff in areas such as risk assessment and behaviour management are not fully developed but sufficient to ensure children are safeguarded. Key staff have a basic understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), although this does not extend to routine evaluation or planning, to promote the particular needs of children in this age group. The setting is capable of maintaining continuous improvement and is able to consider how it can develop its provision.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure records maintained and procedures in place fully reflect the EYFS requirements, to more effectively support systems such as risk assessment and further safeguard children
- ensure the planning and organisation of activities is sufficient to sustain purposeful and challenging experiences for children in the early years age range

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure arrangements are in place to have sufficiently 10/06/2009

qualified staff present at each session

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The staff team varies from day-to-day as do the numbers and ages of children attending. While systems are generally effective to ensure sufficiently qualified staff are present, this was not the case on the day of inspection which was a breach of requirements. However, ratios were maintained and children's well-being was not significantly compromised. Activity planning is generally structured around areas of the leisure centre available each day, which all staff are familiar with. As a result, all children have sufficient variation to their day as they use the swimming pool, large sports hall and two smaller rooms for varied activities; although outdoor play is not routinely incorporated into planning. Good use of additional leisure centre staff to set up equipment is made to ensure this is ready in advance of activities. Playscheme staff with additional coaching skills use these to positive effect at times, to develop children's skills and confidence in new areas. However, this is dependent on individual staff and planning generally does not offer sufficient structure and guidance for less experienced staff to consistently support and manage children's activities. As a result, at times children lack challenge and engagement with activities.

The playscheme continues to assess its provision appropriately and take account of new legislation. The playscheme manager ensures staff have a basic understanding of the EYFS, through annual, induction-like schemes and general updates. This ensures they have an awareness of required policies and procedures in place to promote children's welfare. For example, behaviour management, complaints, sickness and safeguarding procedures. The leisure centre has strong risk assessment systems in place to ensure equipment, the public and staff are safe. However, the playscheme itself lacks specific, child-centred risk assessments to enable systematic reviews of its own arrangements for children's use of equipment and their supervision in a public facility. This limits its ability to promote consistency of practice amongst all staff, including reminders to children about expectations of their behaviour.

Parents receive general information about the playscheme's activities and verbal feedback is available as children are collected. Key procedures are readily displayed with the registration certificate for their information. Information gathered on children's registration forms is sufficient to ensure their individual needs are met and promote their welfare.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are welcomed on arrival by staff and confidently access resources laid out for them in the base room. These include board games and puzzles, books and construction. While resources are not extensive, additional craft activities link to themes at different times of the year to foster their creativity. Children generally engage in free play within the structured environment. They quickly build new

friendships and initiate their own games within the different areas. For example, creating dens within the obstacle course and racing go-karts around the sports hall.

The nature of the playscheme and patterns of attendance limits staff awareness of individual children's interests, but an element of choice is incorporated into their day. For example, children choose who they want to go swimming with and after lunch, between gymnastics and football.

During afternoon sessions, children have fun playing more structured group games and relay races in the hall organised by staff. Staff are friendly and relate well to the children, although at times lack confidence in initiating new activities to engage children's interest. Children's behaviour is managed appropriately with staff intervening to resolve occasional disputes when necessary. Children are protected as staff monitor physical activities sufficiently and basic safety guidelines are reinforced appropriately. At times however, children lack reinforcement about using equipment with regard for others.

Children are safeguarded as activities are organised to promote their safety. For example, they enjoy use of the learner pool in small groups with a designated staff member and changing facilities are separate from the public areas. They climb and balance along an obstacle course laid out for them over safety mats in the squash court. Staff have sufficient understanding of child protection issues and procedures to safeguard children. Children's health is promoted as parents are routinely asked to report sickness in the last 48 hours and children are reminded to wash hands before snacks and lunch. Food and drink are provided by parents, although children can request additional drinking water during the day.

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

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

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	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

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	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

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met