



## **Leicester Civil Service Holiday Playscheme**

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 227026  
**Inspection date** 28 July 2005  
**Inspector** Sheila Hartley

**Setting Address** The Lancaster Sports College, Knighton Lane East, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE2 6FU  
**Telephone number** 0116 2703176 + 0116 2529244  
**E-mail**  
**Registered person** Leicester Civil Service Holiday Playscheme  
**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](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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Leicester Civil Service Holiday Playscheme opened in 1999. It operates from The Lancaster Sports College situated in Aylestone, in the city of Leicester.

A maximum of 50 children may attend the scheme at any one time. The playscheme is open each weekday from 08:15 to 17:15 during the school holidays. All children share access to secure enclosed outdoor play areas.

There are currently 66 children aged from 4 years to under 8 years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area as their parents travel in to the city to work from all

areas of the county of Leicestershire. The scheme employs 20 staff. The manager holds a level 3 early years qualification and other staff hold recognised qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children really enjoy and enthusiastically participate in an exciting and varied range of energetic physical activities which contribute to their healthy lifestyle. They develop self confidence in their physical skills as they use a wide range of equipment designed for sport and other activities such as disco-dancing. All the children are actively encouraged to develop hand eye coordination and gain control of their bodies through the well planned activities which include ball skills and tennis coaching. Children independently address their personal care needs and wash their hands after using the toilet. They are protected from infection because practitioners maintain high levels of hygiene. The dining room is thoroughly cleaned each day to maintain appropriate standards and regular checks ensure the toilet areas are clean. Children stay healthy because clear guidance regarding both children's and staff's attendance at the setting if they are unwell protects them from illness and infection. Any children who have a bump or tumble are cared for very well by staff, who are trained to give first-aid and are always available at the setting and on outings. Practitioners use the training they have received to comfort the children and treat minor injuries. They ensure that parents are made aware of the accident at the end of the day. A range of drinks is available for children and they are encouraged to have extra drinks after exercise and during hot weather to ensure they stay well hydrated. Snacks such as fruit, which the setting provides, encourage the children to eat healthily and this is reflected in the lunch boxes they bring for their midday meal. Children's dietary requirements and any allergies are accounted for as information is carefully recorded. When activities such as biscuit decorating are planned, staff ensure the biscuits are nut-free, and at barbeques it is carefully noted which children eat beef or pork or are vegetarian.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn how to stay safe and are encouraged to develop responsibility for their own safety. They become familiar with safety procedures which are consistently explained at the beginning of each day to ensure any new children know what to do. They are reminded daily of any hazards and rules about not leaving the premises. This means that when a door is left open accidentally children do not take the opportunity to leave unattended and they do not access areas where maintenance workers leave tools unattended. Children are further protected as authorised collectors are issued with a security card and children are not released into the care of any other adults. Staff are very clear about their responsibilities for checking facilities regularly and supervising the children to keep them safe. They wear distinctive uniforms so they are easily recognisable and children know who to go to

for help. All the children have good access to a range of facilities for indoor and outdoor activities including sports halls and all weather, safe playing surfaces. Very good procedures and organisation enable children to enjoy the various outings to theme parks, farms and other attractions safely. Staff use mobile phones and walkie-talkies to summon support if required. For example, if a child has an accident and first-aid is required. Robust procedures ensure children are cared for by suitable adults who have relevant experience and skills. They are protected from harm because staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

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

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and enjoy a varied range of activities and outings. These provide good levels of challenge appropriate to children's age and developmental stages. For example, tennis coaching provides opportunities for children to acquire skills in ball control, running and gaining balance and coordination of their bodies. Those who lack confidence and are reluctant to participate are encouraged and supported very well by staff. They are persuaded to have a go and respond to the challenge. To their surprise they really enjoy themselves and eagerly anticipate the next session. Children work very well together in large and small groups. They cooperate to create a frieze in craft activities, and carry it with pride to display the finished result. The children develop good relationships with staff and other children of all ages. They form friendships which they rekindle when they meet at the playscheme during each school holiday. They support and encourage one another, learn to share and take turns, waiting patiently for their turn on the soft play and inflatable equipment. Activities are successfully planned to offer children new experiences and to enable them to develop new skills whilst having lots of fun. Children use a range of sporting equipment with increasing competence, such as skipping ropes and mini-stilts. Events, such as 'Mini-Olympics' and preparing singing and dancing shows, to present to their parents, give all the children an opportunity to earn a certificate for playing their part. Acknowledgement of their contribution promotes their self-esteem and confidence. They are offered opportunities to rest and relax. Many of the children are having such a good time they are reluctant to rest and are encouraged to appreciate quiet time in the afternoon. They use their initiative during this period to select from a range of creative activities, opportunities to watch appropriate videos or converse in small groups.

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

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals and their needs are met well. Clear recording methods ensure their individual needs are discussed, recorded and regularly reviewed with parents. Children from a multicultural society are welcomed to the setting and included. They form friendships with children of differing cultures and develop positive attitudes as they enjoy activities and learn about other customs and practices. For example, Henna painting, Caribbean dancing and Afro-Caribbean story

telling. They learn about the local community during trips to the city farm and visits from Community Police Officers and Fire Officers who bring a fire engine to delight the young children. It is not clear that any adaptations would be made to welcome and include children with special needs to the playscheme. Children behave very well. They know what is expected of them and respond well. Positive behaviour and achievement is encouraged with rewards, such as medals and certificates, which also promotes their confidence and self-esteem. They are reminded every day that bullying is not acceptable, and rather than worry about it and be sad they must speak to a member of staff. All the children are eager to join in the life of the setting. They volunteer to help pour drinks at snack time and glow with pride when they are asked to act as a buddy for a child joining the scheme for the first time. This system contributes to children settling in quickly to enjoy their time at the setting and encourages children to take responsibility for others. Parents receive an introductory leaflet which explains the range of activities the children will be offered and includes a synopsis of policies and procedures. They are kept informed by regular newsletters, information on the notice boards and dialogue with staff. Photographs of their children enjoying a variety of activities and outings bring to life how their children spend their time.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. Knowledgeable practitioners work well together to ensure the children are safe and secure and really enjoy their time at the playscheme. They fully understand their roles and responsibilities and follow the setting's comprehensive policies and procedures. For example, the very clear procedure to be followed on outings ensure adult to child ratios are maintained and children are able to enjoy new experiences whilst remaining safe. Children are able to make a positive contribution and their well-being is enhanced because they receive a high level of adult support and positive interaction with the enthusiastic staff. Their independence is developed as they have freedom to move around the well organised environment and to make choices of the activities in which they wish to participate. Feedback is sought from parents and children in regular questionnaires. Responses are acted upon to continually make improvements and enhance children's experiences. Overall the provision meets the needs of range of children for whom it provides very well.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting was asked to develop and implement an action plan that set out how supervisors would achieve a level three qualification. The manager now has a level three early years qualification and other staff also have suitable qualifications. This means staff have the knowledge, skills and experience to ensure children remain healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve and are able to make a positive contribution during their time at the playscheme.

The organisation was also asked to devise and implement procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff, and to

make improvements to written statements and records. Action has been taken to address the issues. Comprehensive policies, procedures and records which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision are in place and promote the children's welfare, care and enjoyment.

### **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):

- take reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children on the premises are minimised and the premises are secure at all times
- ensure the written statement about special needs is consistent with current legislation and guidance including the Disability Discrimination Act.

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