



Harborough Leisure Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 226440
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Inspector Jyotshna Surti

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Registered person Harborough Leisure Centre
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?

Market Harborough Leisure Centre Crèche opened in 1991. It operates from purpose-built premises in the Leisure Centre, in Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The crèche serves the local area and provides a service for parents using the leisure facilities.

Children attend for between one and a half, and two, hours each session. The setting is able to support children with special needs. There are no children, currently attending, for whom English is an additional language.

The group opens five days a week, all year, except for Christmas and bank holidays. Sessions are from 09:00 until 12:00 on Monday and Friday and 09:00 until 12:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They are open in the afternoon from 13:15 to 16:15 on Monday, 13:30 to 15:15 on Tuesday, 13:30 to 15:30 on Wednesday and Thursday and 13:00 to 15:15 on Friday.

There are three part-time, and two full-time, staff working with the children. They are currently working towards, or just completing, early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 and 3.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy opportunities to develop their physical skills indoors. However, they do not play outside as the crèche does not have any outdoor provision. Children's health is reasonably promoted by staff's understanding of health and hygiene procedures. For example, they have a satisfactory understanding of the sick child policy and information that needs to be recorded in an event of an accident. All staff regularly update their first-aid training, however, they are not trained to effectively deal with children who may suffer from allergies. Children benefit from the regular cleaning and disinfecting of tables, toys and equipment as staff implement effective hygiene practice. Children understand why they need to wash their hands, before eating their snacks, as staff explain this to them. They bring snacks and drinks from home and staff encourage healthy eating, for example, by encouraging children to bring fruit instead of crisps. Children have water available to them but they cannot independently access it. Children's individual dietary needs are adhered to by the staff and relevant information is obtained from the parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and suitable, welcoming, and friendly, environment. They have access to sufficient toys, and play materials, that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. They choose toys and equipment, from an adequate range, that help to create a stimulating and creative play space. Children are able to move freely, and safely, as staff take appropriate steps to minimise risks and hazards. They are cared for by staff who ensure the crèche boundaries are observed, and the exits secure, helping to keep children safe. Children are protected from the likelihood of accidental injury as staff conduct daily risk assessments and provide satisfactory supervision. Their welfare is appropriately protected as staff are aware of child protection issues and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are broadly settled and happy. They demonstrate reasonable levels of confidence and independence, as they comfortably enter the crèche, whilst their parents stay on site to pursue their activities. They interact appropriately with their peers and invite others to join in with their games. Older children relate reasonably well to the staff, who offer satisfactory support to them, which helps to develop their confidence and self-esteem. However, younger children and babies receive insufficient interaction, and are not effectively stimulated, to encourage their development. Older children enjoy riding, climbing, sliding and imaginative play. They have daily opportunities to develop their creative skills. Children are offered resources that are suited to their individual developmental needs, and their age, which keeps them occupied and interested.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have equal access to toys, equipment and play materials that maintain their interest and developmental needs. However, children have limited opportunities to learn about the wider world, as resources are limited and, activities are carried out occasionally. They behave well, and are beginning to understand what is right and wrong, as staff give appropriate explanations for their behaviour. Children's self-esteem and confidence is promoted by praise and encouragement for good behaviour. Staff give daily, verbal information to parents about their child's time at the crèche which contributes towards their continuity of care. Parents are given most of the required information about the crèche policies and procedures. However, they are not fully informed of the complaints procedure and are not, therefore, able to ensure that their child's welfare is fully protected.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is adequately supported by the satisfactory organisation and management of the setting. Most children feel settled and comfortable within the environment. Effective recruitment procedures, and the relevant qualifications of staff, contribute to children's welfare. Appropriate systems for storing records securely helps to maintain children's confidentiality. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last Children Act inspection recommended that the crèche should ensure that there are separate areas for different activities including space for children to rest and sleep, that there are sufficient toys, equipment and play materials that include positive images of race, gender and disabilities so that children are provided with stimulating activities and play opportunities to develop in areas of learning, that accurate information about the setting, policies and procedures is given to parents, that staff's knowledge and understanding is developed about the child protection

issues, that equal opportunities, medication and sickness policy is in place and that staff have easy access to children's records at all times.

The crèche has made some improvements. Staff's have completed child protection training to ensure that their knowledge and understanding has developed in order to protect children's welfare. There are still not suitable separate areas for children to rest in. There are sufficient toys, equipment and play materials available to children to provide adequate stimulation and play opportunities. The resources include a small range with positive images of race, gender and disabilities. The required policies and procedures are in place, however procedures for complaints do not effectively inform parents to ensure that children's interests are fully protected. Staff are able to access children's records easily to ensure that information is at hand when required.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report since the last inspection.

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 parents are informed of appropriate complaints procedures
- Ensure that effective interaction and stimulation is offered for younger children and babies to fully promote their skills and development.
- Ensure that staff training is provided from a qualified health professional with regards to dealing with children with allergies, for example administering epipen.

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