



## **Crook Log Leisure Centre**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY282285
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School 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](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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Crook Log Leisure Centre, Bexleyheath provides crèche facilities for children under 5 years old and a holiday play scheme for children 5 to 8 years old. Children up to the age of 11 years also attend.

The purpose built crèche room is registered for a maximum of 20 children at any one time. The creche is open Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00 all year round except bank holidays. All creche staff hold a childcare qualification.

The holiday play scheme operates from the main sports hall and fitness studios and has use of the swimming pool and toilets. It is registered for up to 32 children under 8 years at any one time and is open from 08:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday during school holidays. Play leaders work on a ratio of 1 member of staff to 8 children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The Leisure Centre premises are clean and well maintained. Staff in the crèche room ensure that the toys and equipment are cleaned regularly and have good procedures in place to protect children from the spread of infection. For example, parents are requested not to use the crèches facilities if children are sick or unwell. Children are encouraged to wash their hands after going to the toilet and staff use effective nappy changing procedures. The outside play area provides opportunities for children to play in the fresh air and develop their large motor skills running around and riding bikes. None of the crèche staff currently hold an up to date first aid qualification, however there is always a qualified first aider on duty with in the centre.

Children attending the holiday play scheme are escorted to the toilet and are encouraged to wash their hands however, children do not wash their hands before they eat their lunch. Children with special needs requiring medication are administered it by their one to one worker.

Crèche children are only given snacks and drinks provided by parents which have to be clearly labelled with the child's name. Registration forms contain details about allergies and special dietary requirements.

Children attending the holiday play scheme have a choice of either bringing a packed lunch from home or being provided with a choice of hot meals from the café. The menu on offer to children includes some healthy options such as jacket potatoes with different fillings but quite often children choose the less healthy options such as burgers and chips. As parents do not always pack enough drinks for children the scheme provides jugs of water during the morning and afternoon session. At afternoon tuck time children use the vending machines to purchase chocolate bars, sweets and crisps.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Good safety procedures ensure that children attending both the holiday play scheme and the crèche are kept safe and protected from harm. Regular risk assessments are carried out by an appointed health and safety officer.

The crèche room provides children with space to move around freely and safely and has necessary safety precautions in place such as socket covers and a gate to prevent children accessing the kitchen area. A security coded door stops unwanted

visitors gaining access and a high handle on the inside of the door ensures that children cannot leave unsupervised. Parents are required to sign children in and out. Toys and equipment are of good quality, in good condition and regularly checked for safety.

Parents/carers are also required to sign children in and out of the holiday play scheme. The sports hall and fitness suites provide children with space to play safely and take part in various sports activities. Children are escorted in groups to the toilet by a member of staff. The premises and sports equipment are checked daily by staff before use.

Crèche staff's sound knowledge of child protection enhances younger children's safety and welfare, however children attending the holiday play scheme are not so well protected because of staff's limited knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Activities provided in the holiday play scheme are mainly centred around different sports such as badminton, football, rugby, ball games, swimming and gymnastics. However, this week neither the Charlton football skills coach or the gymnastic coach have turned up, so that children have been unable to participate in these planned activities. Younger children particularly enjoy using the bouncy castle and large soft play equipment but during general free play time when all the children are together, their play is sometimes impeded by the poor organisation of the different age groups and abilities. The younger children benefit more once the groups are split into under eights and over eights. For those children who are not so sports orientated, a very limited choice of alternative activities are on offer such as colouring with felt tip pens. Play leaders also plan some activities such as making rice crispy cakes and art and crafts although resources once again are very limited and restrictive. Few of the play leaders have experience of working with children under eight years. Lack of interaction and initiative on the part of some of the play leaders results in children often standing around for quite long periods of time with nothing to do.

Children attending the crèche enjoy good adult interaction and can choose from a broad selection of age appropriate play resources and activities such as puzzles, drawing, farm set, dolls, buggies, train track, garage and cars Lego and various construction toys. The well resourced home corner and dressing up clothes rack provides children with many opportunities for role play. Children benefit from an inviting book area where they can choose from a good selection of books or sit and listen to stories read by staff. The room is set up with a clearly defined area for babies with bouncy chairs, large cushions, activity centres and a variety of rattles, posting boxes, musical toys and rattles. In the better weather children enjoy playing outside in the small outdoor play area.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Facilities at the Leisure Centre are open to everyone regardless of race, culture, religion, gender or disability. The crèche provides care for children under five years, for up to two hours for parents/ carers taking part in classes and sports facilities at the centre. Children with special needs are welcomed into the crèche and are provided with one to one care if required. Children learn to respect diversity and disability through play resources such as dolls, puzzles and books. The holiday play scheme is open to all children between the ages of five years and eleven years from the local and neighbouring communities. The scheme offers ten places daily to Bexley Special Needs Access to Provision (SNAP) children with special needs and their one to one carers.

Children attending the crèche are learning to share and take turns. Staff give lots of cuddles and use lots of praise and encouragement to distract children who are distressed at being left. Children in the holiday play scheme play well together and are involved in drawing up the "rules". At 9:30 each morning play leaders remind children of the code of conduct which includes no fighting, no spitting, no swearing and no leaving the hall without telling a member of staff. A "three strike" system is operated for managing children's unwanted behaviour. At the first strike children receive a verbal warning. This is followed by a second formal warning with parents being involved. If a third formal warning is issued children are excluded for a period of time depending on the severity of the incident.

The Leisure Centre does not currently provide new parents with any written information about crèche facilities or the holiday play scheme as an information brochure is in the process of being developed. However, a large notice board in the crèche room keeps parents up to date about crèche policies and procedures. Registration forms for both the crèche and holiday play scheme provide staff with information about children's individual needs. Parents are required to pre book places for both facilities.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Recruitment procedures for employing play leaders do not ensure that staff have relevant qualifications or experience required for caring for young children under 8 years. The temporary manager does not hold a level 3 qualification, although she is currently training to be a teacher and is a Brownie leader. The other play leaders consist of a rugby and football coach, a dance student, a physical education student and a school girl studying for AS levels. Due to staff shortages two new staff have been brought to work at the scheme by the current manager, neither of whom have had proper interviews or inductions. All staff are vetted and have a current CRB disclosure. The lack of experienced staff, resources and organisation results in children's needs not always being met.

Children in the crèche benefit from being cared for by experienced and qualified staff. The crèche manager holds a level 3 child care qualification and demonstrates a good understanding of the National Standards. The staff work well together to provide

consistent care for children's individual needs, to protect them from harm and to provide a stimulating environment. Effective use of space and play resources ensures that children can play safely and make independent choices.

Both the crèche and holiday play scheme have relevant and necessary documentation in place and include a record of the children's attendance, registration/child record forms, accident records and medication consent forms. The centre has a set of policies and procedures.

The setting does not meet the needs of all the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## **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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that a level 3 manager is in place and that at least 50% of play leaders hold a level 2 qualification in childcare
- ensure that sufficient resources and activities are provided for children and that the younger children's needs are met during whole group activities
- ensure that the arrangements for the care of children 8 years and over do not adversely affect the care of children under 8 years old.

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed

by the date specified in the notice.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)