



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 509546

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/03/2005
Inspector Name Elly Bik-Kuen Wong

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Creche Day Care
Setting Name Alton Sports Centre Creche
Setting Address Alton Sports Centre
Chawton Park Road
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 1ST

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name ALTON SPORTS CENTRE

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name ALTON SPORTS CENTRE
Address CHAWTON PARK ROAD
ALTON
HAMPSHIRE
GU34 1RQ

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

Alton Sports Centre Crèche is run by D. C. Leisure. It opened in 1985, but was registered in 2000. The crèche operates from one large room and a small side room on the upper floor of the leisure centre. It is situated on the southern outskirts of Alton. A maximum of 26 children may attend the crèche at any one time, and it is the crèche's policy to receive children not younger than six weeks. The crèche is open in the morning on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 0900 to 1200; and on Tuesday from 0900 to 1230. The afternoon sessions are on Tuesday and Wednesday from 1330 to 1515. The crèche is open all year round except during bank holidays.

There are currently over 500 children aged six weeks to under five years on roll, none of whom receive funding for nursery education. Children can stay for a maximum of two and a half hours. The crèche is able to support children with special needs, and those who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche employs seven part-time staff, six of whom usually work at each session. Two of them hold relevant early years qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

The Alton Sports Centre Crèche provides satisfactory care for children aged under five years.

The crèche is well established with an experienced and committed staff team, who work well together. There is good support from centre management for personnel issues and regular risk assessment of premises. There is an adequate operational plan which ensures that the crèche runs smoothly. The staff tirelessly set up and pack up suitable play and care equipment each day to provide a safe, comfortable and interesting environment for children. The staff give children close support and make them feel secure and happy. The staff are all long standing child care practitioners with an understanding of sound child care principles. However, they need to regularly update their knowledge, as well as work towards meeting relevant qualification requirements. Most paper work is in place, though some requires reviewing and further development.

The staff are vigilant with implementing safety procedures, and care for children in a safe and secure manner. The staff know the children well. They show interest in

them, and offer suitable stimulation for children's play and development. Toddlers and older children enjoy the freedom to choose from the vast amount of accessible play equipment in the spacious open plan crèche room. They thrive in the active, sociable, yet calm atmosphere. The staff are kind and patient, and encourage good behaviour. They are very aware of children's different needs and parents' special requirements. They respect their differences, while treating all children with equal concern.

The staff team have cemented close, warm relationships with parents over the years. They feedback adequately about their children's care at handover time. They also share key policies with parents in a written format.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the group was asked to submit an action plan to develop procedures for checking staff's suitability. There is now sufficient line management support to ensure that.

The group was also required to draw up an action plan to meet staff training and qualification requirements. The attempts to recruit new qualified staff through advertising did not meet with any response or success. Existing staff are very experienced, and have since completed a basic child protection course and a workshop on resuscitation for infants and children, thus improving their awareness/skills in protecting children and managing certain life-threatening emergencies. However, more updating training is still required.

What is being done well?

- The stable staff team work well together. Many have 10 or more years of crèche work experience, and show a natural affinity towards children. Babies are held in arms during bottle feeding. Staff talk to and play with children. They offer reassurance and help when needed, Staff respect children's routines and meet their needs appropriately, eg, for sleep, feed and play.
- There are good systems for the crèche's operation, eg, advance booking to ensure suitable staffing ratios. Line management supports staff in job appraisals and risk assessment of premises etc.
- Children are provided with a good range of play and care facilities despite the tedious process of daily setting up/packing up by staff. The toys are age appropriate and readily accessible on the extensive safety mats. Among the plentiful toys are those for developing babies' and toddlers' physical balance and co-ordination. The layout of the spacious hall also encourages toddlers and older children to roam and explore freely within a safe confine and make own choices in play.
- The staff are vigilant about children's safety, and supervise them closely. There are sound procedures for ensuring health and safety, eg, no access by strangers to the secure crèche room; collection of children only by named parents; and strict labelling of drink/food containers to prevent any allergic

reactions from sharing other's food or drinks.

- The staff are good role models of behaviour. They praise and encourage children, who appear happy, relaxed and calm. There were over 20 children at the session, mainly infants and toddlers, but none was distressed and there was hardly any crying during the 3 hrs.
- There is a good rapport between parents and staff. Some parents have been attending with their children for nearly a decade. Staff keep them well informed orally and through brief written policies.

What needs to be improved?

- measures for senior and assisting staff to update their knowledge of the national standards, and to meet qualification requirements, such as through short courses and qualifying training
- documentation, such as a complaints procedure; lost/uncollected child policy; visitor's register; behaviour incident records; and written consent for seeking emergency medical treatment.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Identify measures for senior and assisting staff to update their knowledge of the national standards, and to meet qualification requirements, such as through short courses and qualifying training.
14	Extend documentation, such as a complaints procedure; lost/uncollected child policy; visitor's register; behaviour incident records; and written consent for seeking emergency medical treatment.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.