



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY260441

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 18/02/2004
Inspector Name Jacqueline Oldman

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Creche Day Care
Setting Name Blackwater Leisure Centre
Setting Address Park Drive
Maldon
Essex
CM9 5UR

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Leisure Connection Ltd 2566586

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Leisure Connection Ltd
Address Dunstable Road
Redbourn
St. Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 7PR

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

Blackwater Leisure Centre Crèche was registered in 2003. It operates from one room within a leisure centre in Maldon. The crèche is for the use of members while they use the leisure facilities.

There are currently 68 children on roll under the age of 5 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The crèche supports children who have special needs and at present there are no children attending who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche opens five days a week all year round. Two hour sessions operate between 09.00 and 15:00.

Four members of staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ Level 2 or 3.

How good is the Day Care?

Blackwater Leisure Centre Crèche provides satisfactory care for children.

Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment. Currently all children are cared for in the same space. A rest area is not provided. Staff work as a team and provide support to the children. There is an appropriate procedure for deputising in the absence of a manager. Documentation is readily available and stored securely, however some needs reviewing.

Staff make regular checks of the room to ensure safety standards are maintained. Good hygiene routines are implemented by staff and children are encouraged to adopt them. Steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection. There is no method of recording the administration of medication. There is an appropriate exchange of information regarding the provision of snacks and specific dietary requirements. Attention is paid to children's individual needs. Staff are aware of those who attend occasionally and ensure they exchange up to date information regarding their care. Staff have some awareness of their responsibilities should they have concerns regarding a child's well being and further training has been arranged.

There is a range of toys and equipment to meet the developmental needs of the children. There are limited resources reflecting positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability. Activities are stored in a large cupboard and rotated to offer variety.

Staff cheerfully talk and play with the children, listening to their conversations and helping with activities when asked. Staff praise good behaviour and encourage the children to socialise and share. An incident record is not kept.

Staff like to get to know parents and work in partnership with them. Parents are given some information about the group via a prospectus and one to one conversations. Parents are encouraged to visit the crèche with their child for settling in sessions.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- Activities provide stimulating experiences for the children, encouraging them to engage in imaginative play both independently and with others.
- Staff cheerfully play and talk to the children, acknowledging their achievements. They value what children say and do.
- Training needs have been identified and places have been booked on relevant courses.
- Behaviour is well managed and takes account of children's ages and stages of development. Praise and encouragement are used effectively.

What needs to be improved?

- organisation, to provide a separate base for children under two and a safe and secure area for them to sleep or rest. Suitable arrangements for babies to be bottle fed in comfort.
- record keeping in respect of the accident, incident and medication books; children under two who sleep on the premises; children's records to include an emergency telephone contact number and written permission to seek emergency advice or treatment
- policies and procedures regarding lost or uncollected children, bullying, complaints, child protection and notifying Ofsted of staff changes
- resources reflecting positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
6	Devise a procedure to be implemented in the event a child is lost or uncollected.	08/04/2004
12	Make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint	08/04/2004
14	Make sure Ofsted are notified about any significant changes or events (this refers to any changes in members of staff)	08/04/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
4	Review the current rest and sleep provision to ensure children can sleep comfortably and safely while others are engaged in activities in close proximity.
4	Provide a separate base area for children under two years.
7	Request prior written parental consent to seek emergency advice or treatment, ensure there is a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children.
9	Review resources to ensure they reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.
14	Review and update record keeping, with particular reference to obtaining emergency contact numbers.

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.