



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 149131

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 13/08/2004
Inspector Name Patricia Mary Champion

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Creche Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name The Playhouse Childcare at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre
Setting Address Garon Park
Eastern Avenue
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS2 4FA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Creating Leisure Ltd 03232979

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Creating Leisure Ltd
Address Parkwood House
Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge
Preston
Lancashire
PR5 6BY

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

The Playhouse Childcare at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre originally opened in 1996. It provides care by way of a crèche and a holiday scheme. The crèche operates from one room within the leisure centre. The holiday scheme operates from the cricket pavilion. Outings are made to the sports halls and the athletics track. The crèche and holiday scheme serve members of the leisure centre, the local community and surrounding areas.

There are approximately 300 children from 0 to 8 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions in the crèche or full day care in the holiday scheme. The setting supports a small number of children who have special needs or who have English as an additional language.

The crèche opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 09:15 until 12:15.

The holiday scheme opens five days a week during the school holidays. Operating times are from 08:30 until 15:45.

Seven staff work with the children. Three staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Four staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and the Pre School Learning Alliance (PSLA).

How good is the Day Care?

The Playhouse Childcare offers satisfactory care for children. The management has requested a variation to the registration to incorporate the crèche and holiday scheme together as 'wrap around care'. This has been agreed. There have been significant staff changes since the last inspection. Although there are clear recruitment procedures, Ofsted has not been notified of all recent staff changes. There is an action plan for staff training, however staff are not yet trained to care for babies. Space and resources are organised so that children are busy and interested in their play. However unauthorised people can enter the cricket pavilion used by the holiday scheme. Documentation is mostly in good order; details are to be added to the registration system.

The children's safety is given careful consideration. Comprehensive risk assessment

is undertaken, however this needs to be extended regarding potential hazards in the crèche. Staff sensitively promote good hygiene procedures. Snacks, lunchboxes and drinks are provided by parents. There are appropriate systems in place to deal with child protection issues.

Children are involved in a range of activities, which support their imagination, creativity and physical development. Resources show positive images of culture and gender. There are positive relationships between the staff and children. Staff support children well and respond positively to their interests, listening intently to what they have to say. Within the crèche there is a designated carer and separate provision for the under two's to promote children's safety and to provide consistency and continuity of care. The children respond well to staff's expectations for behaviour, they interact well with each other and are settled and confident with their carers.

The setting offers a flexible service to parents. Information is shared with them in an informal way, regarding the care their children receive in the crèche and holiday scheme.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There have been significant improvements following the last inspections of both the crèche and holiday scheme. The new manager has worked hard to update the documentation. There are now clear statements regarding sick children, equal opportunities and special needs. The complaints policy has been updated to show Ofsted's address and telephone number. Parents now sign consent agreements regarding seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment or taking children outdoors to play.

Steps have been taken to improve the welfare of the children. Staff are now being cleared through Ofsted and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). Children now have sole use of the toilet facilities within the leisure centre and they are protected from seeing members of the public who are in the changing rooms. A telephone has been installed within the crèche and additional highchairs have been provided. The heaters in the cricket pavilion have been disconnected for the summer and there is an action plan to organise appropriate guarding for the winter months. An action plan to improve staff qualifications and training is now in place.

At the last inspection the staff were asked to observe and record what children do and plan for the next steps in children's play, learning and development. Under the National Standards for Crèches, this is not a requirement.

What is being done well?

- The staff are enthusiastic and enjoy their time with the children. Interaction is good. The adults are interested in what children do and say; they talk and listen to them and respond to their interests.
- The children attending the holiday scheme make good use of the facilities within the leisure centre. They have fun using the running track and indoor tennis courts.

- The staff and children all know about evacuation and fire safety precautions. Fire drills are regularly undertaken and evaluated within the fire log book.
- Good behaviour is always valued and encouraged and social skills such as sharing and turn taking are actively promoted.

What needs to be improved?

- notification of staff changes at the earliest opportunity
- the action plan for staff training
- the registration system
- security within the cricket pavilion
- the risk assessment of the crèche.

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
14	Ensure that Ofsted is notified of any changes in members of staff at the earliest opportunity.	27/08/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Update the action plan for staff training to include training regarding the care of children aged under three years.
2	Ensure that the children's full names are included on the register.
4	Ensure that rooms used for the out of school scheme are for the sole use of the facility during the hours of operation.

6	Update the risk assessment on the premises identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks. (This refers to the fan and the safety gate in the crèche.)
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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.