



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 219288

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	28/04/2004
Inspector Name	Ann Elizabeth Shelley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Dunstable Park Leisure Centre
Setting Address	Court Drive DUNSTABLE Bedfordshire LU5 4JD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Dunstable Park Leisure Centre 2566586
------	---------------------------------------

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Dunstable Park Leisure Centre
Address	Court Drive Dunstable Bedfordshire LU5 4JD

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

Dunstable Park Leisure Centre is a multi purpose centre close to the town centre, offering swimming pool, gym, indoor bowls, and many other sports. A crèche is provided for children aged 0-5 whose parents are taking part in one of the centre's adult activities. 50% of the staff in the crèche have child care qualifications. The centre also run school holiday play sessions for children under eight years, these session run for under four hours, with staff who are trained in the specialist activities. These sessions do not run every school holiday.

How good is the Day Care?

Dunstable Park Leisure Centre provides satisfactory childcare in their crèche. The crèche provides care for babies and the young children which ensures that children are safe and protected from harm. All children are well cared for. Staff talk to the children and give eye contact. Ratios of adults to children were above the required standard during the inspection. Children are given drinks if supplied by the parents. Safety measures are in place to ensure that children cannot leave the premises without their adult. Adults cannot gain access to children with out being seen by a member of staff.

Play activities are mainly unplanned, depending largely on the age of the children present for that day's session. Activities are provided by the adults; children do not have access to the stored toys, and so have little choice about what the do whilst in the crèche. Toys in the crèche are mainly for the youngest age group; other toys, books and equipment are showing signs of wear and age. Creative activities are not presented for use every day. Imaginative and miniature play is limited, also showing signs of wear.

Parents are welcome to stay and settle their child into the group, ensuring the child's well being in the crèche. Half the staff have appropriate qualifications. Parents are kept informed about their child's activities at the end of each visit, when being collected. The system for collecting children has recently changed to a very relaxed method.

Documentation, policies and procedures are generally in place to ensure that the children are safe, cared for and unharmed when in the group. Many of the policies are displayed for the parents to see, however, the complaints procedure is not being displayed, neither is the contact number and address for Ofsted.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Low level hot water pipes in the toilet area have been encased, children are safe from being burnt.

A panic alarm has been installed in the crèche, which alerts others working in the building to problems in the crèche area.

What is being done well?

- Parents and children are made welcome, in a welcoming ethos.
- Staffing ratios are generally above the required levels, giving adults an opportunity to spend time with each child.

What needs to be improved?

- toy, play materials and equipment need to be refreshed or replaced;
- complaints procedure needs to be displayed;
- ventilation in the toilet/nappy changing area to be improved;
- training update required, particularly child protection;
- a deputy needs to be appointed for 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 should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
2	appoint a named person to take the role of deputy supervisor;
3	provide a suitable range of toys and activities, plan a range of activities and play opportunities for children's overall development, which children

	are able to access easily;
5	ensure that toys and equipment are clean, well maintained and safe;
5	ensure that sufficient/suitable furniture/equipment is available to meet the need of children ;
6	ensure evacuation plan is known to all the centre's employees;
6	ensure that the child collection procedures are working effectively;
6	ensure that the ventilation system in the toilet area is working and effective;
8	ensure water is freely available if wanted, without reducing staff numbers in the crèche.
9	ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice;
12	make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint;
13	develop (staff's) knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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.