



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 148164

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/08/2003
Inspector Name	Anneliese Fox-Jones

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	Birchwood Leisure Centre Playscheme
Setting Address	Longmead Hatfield Hertfordshire AL10 0AS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Birchwood Leisure Centre
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Birchwood Leisure Centre
Address	Longmead Hatfield Herts AL10 0AN

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

This scheme operates as a holiday play scheme out of the Birchwood Leisure Centre in Hatfield. It is run by Hatfield Town Council and is managed by Pat Bailey along with an experienced team.

The play scheme is registered for 40 children aged 5 to 8 years and supplies both indoor and outdoor activities during the holiday period. Children are able to attend between 08:30 and 17:30, Monday to Friday.

How good is the Day Care?

The play scheme provides satisfactory care for the children. They offer a good range of equipment and resources. Children are made to feel welcome and are busy and absorbed in a broad range of activities. Plenty of space indoors and outside allows for activities to be arranged in a way that allows children to have easy access and make decisions and independent choices. The majority of staff are experienced in working at the play scheme and know the children well.

The club is aware of potential safety hazards with only a minor issue identified. The play scheme has introduced a two way radio system, to allow staff members to communicate with one another inside and out, this also allows for staff members to be deployed to ensure supervision and interaction with the children. A member of staff is also stationed on the reception desk during the club for added security.

The children have access to a wide range of activities. They appear content and respond well to the play scheme staff. Activities provided are adapted to include the children's various ages and stages of development. Most of the areas for promoting health are satisfactory with some recommendations for improvement.

Most of the relevant documentation is in place with some additional detail required. The play scheme shows good understanding of working in partnership with parents. This information will also need to include Ofsted's contact details.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection the play scheme has ensured the person in charge is suitably qualified, the leader is currently working towards an NVQ level 3.

Some members have achieved training in managing behaviour, fire marshalling and food hygiene.

What is being done well?

- The play scheme offers good ratios and has had consistent staff members who are experienced and know the children well. (Standard 2)
- The play scheme provides a good range of equipment and stimulating activities for the children of different ages. The children play enthusiastically and co-operatively with each other. (Standards 3 and 5)
- Space is used effectively, where children are given the freedom to make choices in their area of play. Resources are easily accessible to encourage independence. (Standard 4)
- A radio system is in place to allow staff to communicate and also a rota ensures that the reception desk is supervised during the play scheme for added security. (Standard 6)
- The play scheme meets the children's individual needs well. Staff spend time talking and listening to the children. Positive behaviour is reinforced through a sticker chart system. Children in turn respond to the clear guidance and praise. (Standards 9 and 11)
- The play scheme communicates and works in partnership with parents. Good positive feedback is evident in the parent's questionnaires. (Standard 12)

What needs to be improved?

- organisation, to ensure in the absence of the manager, a deputy is efficient in the day to day running of the play scheme: (Standard 2)
- health and safety, to provide socket covers in all areas accessible to the children, ensure good hygiene practices are promoted within the setting and all accident forms are signed by parents: (Standards 6 and 7)
- documentation, to ensure parents are provided with Ofsted's contact details and attendance records provide more detail of arrival/departure times and adult collection: (Standard 12)

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
7	ensure good hygiene practices are in place and promoted within the setting	03/09/2003

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

Std	Recommendation
2	ensure that the deputy in charge is efficient in the day to day running of the play scheme in the co-ordinators' absence.
6	ensure socket covers are present in all areas accessible to the children.
12	ensure the complaints procedure includes Ofsted's contact details
14	ensure signatures are obtained for all accidents, incidents and records of medicine administered.

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.