



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 123627

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	15/03/2004
Inspector Name	Jane Mount

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Camp Energy Harpenden
Setting Address	Rothamsted Park HARPENDEN Hertfordshire AL5 2HU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Leisure Connection PLC
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Leisure Connection PLC
Address	Datalogic House Dunstable Road Redbourn Hertfordshire

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

Camp Energy takes place at Harpenden Sports Centre, Harpenden and is managed by Leisure Connection Limited. It provides a Crèche, an After School Club and a Holiday Playscheme. The children that attend come from Harpenden and the surrounding area.

The Crèche and After School Club share the same facilities and includes a large playroom with a kitchen and toilets. There is a small outside play area and the After School Club also use a squash court and playing fields which are situated outside the Sports Centre. The Holiday Playscheme have the use of the Sports Centres facilities and also use the outside playing area.

The Crèche is registered for 25 children aged 0-5 years and is open Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 15:00 and 09:00 to 12:00 on a Saturday. It is open term time only. The After School Club is registered for 24 children aged 4 years to 8 years and is open from 15:30 to 18:15, Monday to Friday. It is open term time only. The Holiday Playscheme is registered for 96 children aged 5 years to 8 years and is open from 09:00 to 17:00 throughout the school summer holidays and Easter breaks.

The inspection visit took place when the After School Club was running.

How good is the Day Care?

Camp Energy, Harpenden provides satisfactory care for children.

The staff work in partnership with parents to meet the needs of the children and information is shared on a regular basis. The staff have a clear understanding of their roles, however, high priority needs to be given to ensuring staff meet the qualification requirements set out in the National Standards.

A welcoming friendly environment is provided giving children the opportunity to mix freely, working either independently or in groups of varying sizes. There is a relaxed atmosphere with a familiar structure which provides security while still encouraging the children to be independent. The space is generally organised to allow children access to toys and equipment although more efficient storage facilities would improve accessibility for children and staff in the Crèche and After School Club.

Good behaviour is valued and encouraged and inappropriate behaviour is dealt with in a clear, consistent manner. The children's interests are responded to and overall there is an interesting selection of resources available. However, this could be extended to include more resources to develop imaginative play and include construction toys and resources to reflect equal opportunities.

Areas for promoting health and safety are generally satisfactory with a clear health and safety policy. An effective risk assessment is carried out of the provision although this could be developed to include records of daily safety checks. The dietary needs of the children are met well with information relating to dietary requirements being recorded.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection it was agreed to ensure Crèche children could easily access books and this has been achieved through providing a new book stand at floor level.

It was also agreed to review accident records and to devise a risk assessment. New accident and incident books are now in place and a risk assessment has been devised although this needs further development.

The provider also agreed to ensure an effective vetting procedure was in place and this has been accomplished through ensuring all staff undergo necessary checks prior to working with children.

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure staff would hold appropriate qualifications for their job as detailed by the National Standards or provide an action plan detailing how this would be achieved. Overall staff hold appropriate qualifications, however, the manager of the Crèche does not have a level 3 qualification and this needs to be addressed.

What is being done well?

- Good use is made of staff in the After School Club so the children are well cared for and supported. The children feel secure and confident with the adults looking after them.
- The staff have a consistent approach and positive behaviour is encouraged and acknowledged by giving the older children responsibility, for example, helping a younger child.
- Staff work closely with parents and a welcoming environment is provided. Parent questionnaires reflect this with comments such as 'a friendly staff', 'happy environment' and 'staff that care and make sure the children are happy'.

What needs to be improved?

- qualification requirements

- the re-organisation of storage facilities
- the range of resources to include imaginative play, construction and to reflect equal opportunities
- arrangements to minimise hazards
- the organisation of recording procedures for daily safety checks
- hygiene procedures regarding waste bins.

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
1	Provide an action plan detailing how Crèche manager will obtain an appropriate level 3 qualification.	29/03/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
4	To review the organisation of the room to ensure there are sufficient and accessible storage facilities for staff and children.
5	To provide a balanced range of resources and play opportunities which include toys to reflect equal opportunities, imaginative play and construction.
6	Ensure steps are taken to minimise hazards to children on the premises. (This refers to the storage of helium cylinders).
6	Ensure regular safety checks, which are carried out before each session, are recorded and included with the risk assessment records.
7	Ensure good hygiene practices are promoted through providing all bins with lids and thereby minimising the spread of infection.

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.