

Mile end Park Leisure Centre Creche and Kool Crew

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date	21/02/2011
Inspector	Samantha Smith
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Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

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Description of the setting

Mile End Park Leisure Centre Crèche and Kool Crew play scheme was registered in May 2006. It is operated by Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL). The provisions operate within the Leisure Centre which is situated in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The crèche and holiday play scheme operates within designated areas of the leisure centre, and only the holiday play scheme has access to outdoor play facilities. The crèche operates each weekday excluding Sundays from 9am to 1pm and on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm to 8pm. The play scheme operates during school holidays from 8.30am to 5.30pm and they offer an early morning facility from 8am and late collection until 6pm which must be pre-booked.

A maximum of 14 children aged from six weeks to five years may attend the crèche at any one time, and 35 children aged from five to eight years may attend the play scheme. Numbers of children attending both facilities vary on a daily basis. The crèche employs four staff who all hold appropriate early years qualifications, and two of the playscheme staff, including the manager, hold a relevant childcare qualification. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

The crèche is registered on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register and the holiday club is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled within this setting and the needs of most are generally well met. Staff are suitably qualified and show a commitment to their roles. In the main partnerships with parents are positive and effective links have been established with local schools. The management team has recently begun to evaluate their practice but this has yet to be fully implemented.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- obtain information from parents about who has legal contact with the child and who has parental responsibility for the child (Safeguarding and welfare) 09/03/2011

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- review the current risk assessments to determine the regularity of checks to areas identified as high risk to children
- improve parents' access to information about the setting to ensure that they are fully informed about the provision
- further develop the programme of activities to ensure that children are provided with a broad range of experiences.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The provision is sufficiently well managed and organised. Most requirements are being met, although a number of weaknesses identified at this inspection impact on the smooth and efficient running of the setting. Written policies and procedures and arrangements for safeguarding are generally sound contributing towards the safety and well-being of the children. Documentation is available to demonstrate that staff are suitable to work with children. Over half the staff hold a relevant first aid qualification and at least half the staff either hold or are working towards an appropriate childcare qualification. Risk assessments are conducted regularly and cover most areas of the building and some resources. However, more attention is needed to ensure that areas that pose an ongoing risk are checked more frequently.

Staff are particularly vigilant with regards to children's safety whilst in their care. A record is kept of children's arrival and departure times, staff carryout regular head counts throughout the day and escort children to extra curricular activities within the centre. They also escort them to the toilets, which is an area accessed by other centre users. The setting has access to good facilities within the leisure centre, including a large sports hall, a studio, swimming facilities for the older children, a large outdoor area and a designated meeting room. However, not all areas are used effectively throughout every school holiday and as a result activities provided for children during the shorter school holidays are limited.

Partnerships with parents are generally sound. Most of the required information is requested at the start of their child's placement, with the exception of the information about who has legal contact or parental responsibility. This is a breach of requirements. In addition, parents' access to information about the setting, including the certificate of registration, is limited, this is because the information is either displayed out of sight in the crèche or is not continually displayed throughout the hours that the setting is open. Whilst the setting demonstrate an awareness of the benefits of self-evaluation and states they have started the process, this has yet to be fully implemented.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children are settled and express that they are happy at this setting. They benefit from good opportunities to engage in physical activities, both indoors and out, including football, table tennis, badminton and a particular favourite, trampolining. Although some children stated they would like to see more activities on offer. This is acknowledged in discussions with the management team who state a broad range of activities are usually provided during the longer school holidays and acknowledge that more could be done during the shorter holidays. As a result there are times throughout the day when children, who do not want to participate in physical , are left with limited choice and sometimes with nothing else to do because there are no other activities available.

Children are generally well behaved. Staff set clear and consistent boundaries and appropriate strategies are in place for managing aspects of unwanted behaviour. Children are learning about keeping themselves safe through the constant reminders they receive from staff, especially when they are moving around the centre. Children bring in their own packed lunches and snacks and most are stored appropriately, however, parents are not advised of how to ensure the contents of their child's lunch box remain fresh. Children have access to drinking throughout the day.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met