

Connaught Leisure Playscheme

Connaught Leisure Centre, Tongham Road, ALDERSHOT, Hampshire, GU12 4AS

Inspection date

06/08/2013

Previous inspection date

19/02/2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This inspection:

4

Previous inspection:

2

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend 3

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children 4

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision 4

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This provision is inadequate

- Children's safety is compromised because staff are not always vigilant in their supervision. They fail to implement identified action to minimise risks of injury when children use gym climbing apparatus.
- There is an insufficient number of staff that hold at least a full and relevant level 2 qualification working with the children.
- Children do not have sufficient choice of activities, toys and other resources to initiate play using their own ideas.

It has the following strengths

- Children have fun with their friends and relate well to the staff.
- The manager and supervisor establish good communication with parents and each other to help meet children's individual needs.

Information about this inspection

Inspections of registered early years provision are:

- scheduled at least once in every inspection cycle – the current cycle ends on 31 July 2016
- scheduled more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged inadequate
- brought forward in the inspection cycle where Ofsted has received information that suggests the provision may not be meeting the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage or where assessment of the provision identifies a need for early inspection
- prioritised where we have received information that the provision is not meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which suggests children may not be safe
- scheduled at the completion of an investigation into failure to comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The provision is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. This report includes a judgment about compliance with the requirements of that register.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main play area, leisure centre gym, outside play area and local park.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the provision in the main play area.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at planning documentation, checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of practitioners working with children and discussed the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan .
- The inspector took account of parents' views spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Catherine Greenwood

Full Report

Information about the setting

Connaught Leisure Playscheme registered in 1994. It is run by Rushmoor Borough Council, and is registered under the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The provision operates from the Connaught Leisure Centre, which is situated in the grounds of Connaught School on the Heronwood Estate on the outskirts of Aldershot in Hampshire. The provision offers a varied mixture of activities in the main hall, sports hall, gym hall, drama studio and also outside within the school grounds. The provision operates during all school holidays. It accepts children from four (if in full-time education) to 12 years old. There are currently nine children under eight years on roll of whom six are in the early years age range. The provision supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children who attend come mainly from Aldershot and the surrounding towns. Full day sessions are offered from 8.30am until 5.30pm or part-day sessions from 8.30am until 3.30pm. There are ten staff working with the children. Of these, one has a level 3 qualification, two have level 2 qualifications, and three are qualified teachers.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure risk assessments are used effectively in practice so that children are well supervised and kept safe when they are using gym climbing equipment
- ensure at least half of all staff hold at least a full and relevant level 2 qualification

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- improve the choice of activities available to children who do not wish to join in physical play and group activities so they can initiate and extend their own play, using their own ideas.

Inspection judgements

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend

The provision has a relaxed, calm atmosphere. Children play happily with their friends and choose what they want to do from the range of activities provided. For example, at the

beginning of the day they play with cars, use a snooker table, draw and play card games. Children enjoy being at the provision. Staff provide a structure to the day and plan a range of activities that promote children's enjoyment and achievement, although these tend to focus more heavily on physical play and group activities. Staff have a flexible approach to planning and introduce some additional activities according to children's interests that help to keep them focused and engaged. For example, they make kites and bead bracelets and enjoy regular outings to a local park and 'movie days' with popcorn. Staff bring a range of small animals to the provision for a 'pet's day'. This provides a new experience for some children as they handle tortoise, chickens, guinea pigs and throw balls for dogs to run and catch. Staff ask the children what they enjoy doing and make sure they have opportunities to repeat favourite activities.

Staff make sure that children are introduced to adults and other children at the beginning of each day so they feel part of the provision. They involve parents by keeping them well informed about activities and sharing observations about children's individual needs and achievements at the end of each session. Children talk openly and confidently with staff and other children. For example, they chatter while walking to and from the park and when playing games of football and hockey in the outside play area. Staff show interest in what children say and ask questions that encourage children to engage in conversation. An external organisation visits the provision to help children develop skills in cricket, netball, basket ball and football and they learn how to play the games successfully. Children show excitement as staff tell them that these activities are going to be repeated on other days. There are drawing resources available for children to use and staff plan some creative activities and print out pictures of animals, people and mermaids for children to colour in and make collages. Children enjoy these activities particularly when a member of staff suggests a colouring competition. However, the art and craft resources are kept in a cupboard and only set out at certain times of the day, which reduces children's independent creativity. Similarly resources such as books and construction toys are also stored away. This limits the choice of activities for those who do not wish to participate in group activities.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children

Children's well-being is compromised because staff fail to make sure that children are adequately supervised when using climbing apparatus. Children are not reminded about the height they are allowed to climb to on the gym bars, which compromises their understanding of their own safety. When children climb beyond the safe height this sometimes goes unnoticed by staff. Staff clearly tell children what is expected on outings so they learn to keep themselves safe during these times. For example, to stay near to their allocated key person and to wait at the end of a public footpath on the way to the park.

Children are polite and well behaved. For example, they thank adults and say 'excuse me' when they want their attention. Staff inform parents of all behavioural incidents and any accidents and encourage children to apologise if they hurt others. Children form good friendships with staff and other children and show confidence and independence as they

play together and share ideas. Children show good self-care skills as they use the toilet independently and know to wash their hands after touching animals during a 'pet day'. Their good health is promoted through plenty of physical activity and the provision of healthy food and snacks provided by parents. Since the last inspection, the local authority has consulted with children in the provision and used their ideas to create an attractive local playground. Consequently, children are provided with challenge as they enjoy using this facility all year round.

Overall, children are provided with a suitable range of indoor and outdoor play equipment. The availability of some resources affects children's ability to initiate or extend activities with their own ideas. Staff make sure that those who wish to participate in an activity can do so. They provide additional support and guidance for children with special educational needs to help them co-operate with boundaries and expectations in the provision. They provide activities that promote children's awareness of diversity through talking about different countries and celebrations, such as Jewish New Year.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision

The leadership and management of the provision fail to monitor arrangements to safeguard children's welfare. They also fail to ensure that staff qualification requirements are met at all times. The inspection was brought forward following a concern that staff do not supervise children when they are using some gym apparatus and they may not be suitable, responsible adults. The inspection found that the provision has effective systems in place to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. All adults, including those on work experience, have appropriate checks completed. Most staff are experienced playworkers who have worked at the provision for a long time and understand their roles and responsibilities. The manager holds a level 3 qualification and works closely with the supervisor who is responsible for leading the staff team. However, there are times when half the staff working with the children do not have a relevant qualification, as required. The last inspection highlighted weaknesses in risk assessment and an action was raised to improve this. It was found during this visit that although a risk assessment has been completed for use of gym equipment, staff fail to take appropriate action to minimise the identified risks. When using climbing equipment it is expected that staff ensure children climb only to an agreed safe height, from where they can jump off onto safety mats below. However, in practice children are observed to climb unnoticed beyond the safe height and this compromises children's safety. These failures mean that safeguarding requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and also both parts of the Childcare Register are not met.

Staff have a secure knowledge of child protection procedures and know what to do if they have any concerns about a child's well-being. The supervisor regularly reviews staff's understanding of child protection policies and procedures to ensure they are effectively implemented in everyday practice. Some staff are currently completing on-line safeguarding training. All staff know that mobile phones must not be used during times the provision is operating. Children are secure within the premises. During their arrival and

departure times staff greet families at the entrance door to the main play area, so there is a proper handover with parents. They supervise children well when they are playing outdoors and make sure they do not go into areas of the premises that are unenclosed or used by members of the public. Consequently, children cannot leave the premises unsupervised.

Self-evaluation is not rigorous enough to make sure that ongoing improvement takes place. Some positive steps are taken to gain the views of children about the provision. Staff have responded to children's suggestions about activities and now more activities children enjoy, such as, the introduction of nail painting, more competitions and movie sessions are offered. However, the provider's failure to ensure that the manager and staff implement safety measures adequately means that the provision continues to fail to meet requirements and fully safeguard children's welfare.

The management team communicates well with the secondary school where the provision operates. Links with primary schools that children attend are established so that information about their individual needs can be shared as needed. Parents spoken to during the inspection identify they are happy with the provision and they speak favourably about the staff and activities.

The Childcare Register

The requirements for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are

**Not Met
(with
actions)**

The requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are

**Not Met
(with
actions)**

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure that at least half of all persons caring for children have successfully completed a qualification at a minimum of level 2 in a relevant area of work (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- undertake a risk assessment of equipment immediately, where the need for an assessment arises to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register).
- undertake a risk assessment of equipment immediately, where the need for an assessment arises to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

What inspection judgements mean

Registered early years provision

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Outstanding provision is highly effective in meeting the needs of all children exceptionally well. This ensures that children are very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 2	Good	Good provision is effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 3	Satisfactory	Satisfactory provision is performing less well than expectations in one or more of the key areas. It requires improvement in order to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement action. The provision is failing to give children an acceptable standard of early years education and/or is not meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be inspected again within 12 months of the date of this inspection.
Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider continues to meet the requirements for registration.
Not met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider does not meet the requirements for registration.

Inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507919
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	923349
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 8
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	Rushmoor Borough Council
Date of previous inspection	19/02/2009
Telephone number	01252 344438

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Type of provision

For the purposes of this inspection the following definitions apply:

Full-time provision is that which operates for more than three hours. These are usually known as nurseries, nursery schools and pre-schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the higher fee for registration.

Sessional provision operates for more than two hours but does not exceed three hours in any one day. These are usually known as pre-schools, kindergartens or nursery schools

and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the lower fee for registration.

Childminders care for one or more children where individual children attend for a period of more than two hours in any one day. They operate from domestic premises, which are usually the childminder's own home. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Out of school provision may be sessional or full-time provision and is delivered before or after school and/or in the summer holidays. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Where children receive their Early Years Foundation Stage in school these providers do not have to deliver the learning and development requirements in full but should complement the experiences children receive in school.

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