

North Devon Leisure Centre

North Devon Leisure Centre, Seven Brethren Bank, Sticklepath, Barnstaple, Devon,
EX31 2AP

Inspection date

28 May 2015

Previous inspection date

7 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff use effective teaching strategies and plan effectively for children's learning. As a result, children are highly motivated, inquisitive and independent learners.
- Staff give good attention to safeguarding children. They understand policies well and children are cared for in a secure and safe environment where staff supervise them effectively.
- Children display high levels of trust and curiosity. This is because an effective key-person system ensures children build secure and meaningful relationships with staff.
- The manager and supervisor work closely with staff to look at ways to enhance the provision. As a result, staff address weaknesses and improvements are made to benefit all children.
- Effective partnerships with parents ensure that staff meet all children's needs and their learning is supported.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Tracking methods used by staff do not always show the progress children make over time to provide an accurate picture of their development.
- Staff do not always provide babies with a wide range of different media and natural resources to explore and enhance their sensory development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop more effective tracking systems so that children's progress can be measured over time
- extend the range of interesting natural objects and sensory resources for babies to explore and investigate.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions and teaching.
- The inspector spoke with staff, the supervisor and the manager.
- The inspector sampled documentation including policies, staff qualifications and children's development records.
- The inspector reviewed the self-evaluation for the setting.
- The inspector spoke with some parents to gain their views on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Katherine Lamb

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff plan challenging and stimulating activities, which they base on children's interests. Staff skilfully use questions and encourage children to think about problems through activities. They also help children to develop their creativity and imagination. For example, children make rockets using a range of resources. Staff extend children's learning by getting them to identify the different shapes of paper they are using. They promote children's counting skills by counting the number of sides each shape has. Staff support babies well and they ensure they encourage them to explore their environment. Babies enjoy using push button toys, smiling as they pop up or play music. However, they do not have many opportunities to explore and play with a wide range of objects and natural resources that stimulate all their senses. Staff engage children in conversation, which motivates children's thinking and promotes their communication and language skills, for example, when playing matching games.

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

Children settle smoothly into the setting because of the good relationships they have with staff. This enables staff to develop a secure knowledge of children's care needs to support their emotional well-being. Staff promote children's confidence and self-esteem well as they provide praise and encouragement. Children start to develop a good understanding of healthy lifestyles through explanations and discussions from staff during meals and snack times. Staff support children's physical development well. Children use a range of facilities at the leisure centre, such as the soft playroom, ball pool and sports hall, which helps to keep them active. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for the setting; for example, helping to clear away their toys. Staff support children to behave well, they learn how to include each other in their play and consider the needs of others. As a result, children are ready for the next stage in their learning.

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

Managers and staff have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The management team monitors the provision and children's progress to identify areas for improvement. However, tracking systems are less successful to measure children's progress over time. Management promotes staff's professional development through regular meetings, observations and appraisals. Staff attend training to improve their skills, for example, on child-led play and used this to help review the planning process to include more child-led activities. Self-evaluation is accurate and involves parents, which helps to identify areas to address and drive improvement. Parents speak highly of the setting and comment that their children are happy and well cared for.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY332362
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	828196
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	250
Name of provider	Parkwood Leisure Ltd
Date of previous inspection	7 January 2010
Telephone number	01271 373361

North Devon Leisure Centre registered in 2006. Parkwood Leisure Limited manages the creche and holiday club. The creche is open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 12.30pm throughout the year. The holiday club operates during the school holidays Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 6pm. There are five members of staff. Four staff are qualified at Level 3 or higher. The creche is in receipt of early years funding for children aged two, three and four years old.

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