



Leapz and Bounds

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	221945
Inspection date	22 August 2006
Inspector	Jean Goodrick
Setting Address	Sawtry Leisure Centre Fen Lane, Sawtry, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 5TH
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Registered person	Huntingdon District Council Community Services, Hun
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

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

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Leapz and Bounds opened in 1998 and takes place at Sawtry Leisure Centre which is part of Huntingdonshire District Council Community Services. It operates from a large sports hall and children have access to an all weather enclosed outdoor play area. The club serves the local area.

The club is registered to care for 36 children between five and eight years at any one time. There are currently 36 children from five to 12 years on roll. Children can attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports children with disabilities.

The club currently opens on Tuesdays and Thursdays during school holidays. Sessions are from 08.30 to 17.30.

Staff at the club are generally employees of the Leisure Centre. Fourteen staff members work with the children at different sessions. The Play Leader has an NVQ level 3 qualification and other members of staff have relevant experience and qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children engage in an excellent range of physical activities which help to promote a healthy lifestyle. They move freely around the well equipped setting. There is plenty of space in the hall, the outdoor all weather play area, and the swimming pool for children to develop their co ordination skills, for instance playing games with balls and hoops and enjoying the parachute games. They confidently build on their fine motor skills joining in creative activities and cookery. A quiet space is provided in the large hall with mats and resources, such as paper for drawing and colouring, where children can choose to sit and rest.

Children develop a good understanding of the importance of personal hygiene, supported by consistent routines and well informed staff. Children's health is promoted and cross-infection is minimised by the policies and procedures which are implemented in practice. Daily routines include washing hands before the cookery activity and after using the toilet. All health related documentation is in place and updated regularly to ensure children's individual health needs are met and respected. In the event of an accident staff are supported by the leisure centre's rigorous procedures. First aiders can be summoned very quickly using the efficient communication system so that children's welfare is a priority.

Children benefit from satisfactory nutrition as parents provide children's meals and snacks which ensures all allergies and dietary requirements are met. A water dispenser is available in the hall and children help themselves when they are thirsty. Staff also take jugs of water outside when children are playing energetic games so that they do not become dehydrated. Children sit together sociably on benches at lunch time having a picnic style meal.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children, families and visitors are greeted by welcoming staff who provide a warm, friendly environment. Children are encouraged to join in a good range of activities, including sporting activities, in a safe environment where they are supported by very competent and caring staff. Daily risk assessments are carried out to ensure that the space, resources and equipment are well-maintained and suitable for children to use. Staff are sensitive to potential hazards for children, for instance, the hard Astroturf

surface and they adapt activities accordingly. Secure systems are in place for the safe arrival and departure of children, including passwords, to prevent them from leaving the premises unsupervised. Staff conscientiously escort children to the toilets, which is a public area in the centre. Children learn about keeping themselves safe as staff regularly discuss safety rules, such as not running in the swimming pool area, and children explain 'because it's slippy and you might fall over'. Children are rigorously supervised in the swimming pool with staff, who are qualified life guards, in the water and observing from the sides. Younger children stay in the shallow end and wear swimming hats for identification.

The protection of children is recognised by the setting to be of the highest priority. All staff are vetted and there are clear procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board requirements. All staff attend basic training in this area of their work and the Play Leader is very well qualified so that children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of activities, including creative and sporting activities, which are well planned and well resourced by staff. For instance, children work well together in the cookery activity, making short bread, sharing utensils and chatting together. They have exuberant fun in the swimming pool, climbing on the large floats, pushing each other along and tipping themselves into the water, with staff joining in and keeping an eye open for any over-exuberance. Children make choices about activities they would like, asking for parachute games and joining in enthusiastically as they choose their favourites. They develop confidence and independence as they make choices, for instance, choosing to 'chill out' in the quiet area and draw or play with lego if they do not want to participate in an activity.

Staff work well as a team, supporting children's participation and providing plenty of opportunities for fun. They are perceptive to the individual needs of children, offering constructive ideas which children use to extend and develop their skills such as throwing and catching the ball, rolling hoops or learning to shoot accurately into the net during a game of football. Staff listen and respond to children with respect as children initiate conversations with older children and adults. Children are confident and secure in the setting. They talk about the things they enjoy saying they like 'all the activities' and giving the club '7 out of 10'. Children work together to build friendships and challenge and extend their personal skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed to the provision and staff obtain the necessary information from parents and carers to ensure that children are fully included. Children develop a sense of belonging as they work harmoniously with others, making choices and decisions and co operating in the activities. Staff are good role models in treating all children with respect and helping children accept their differences and similarities.

There are effective systems in place to actively support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children generally behave well. Staff provide consistent boundaries. They discuss the club rules at the beginning of the session and at the beginning of activities such as swimming and help children understand the reasons behind the rules. Children receive good support and encouragement and they have plenty of opportunities to let off steam.

Children benefit from the satisfactory communication between staff and parents at the beginning and end of sessions. A booklet of policies and procedures is accessible to parents at the entrance to the hall so that parents can find out more about the care their children receive. Parents and children also have opportunities to give feedback to the staff through questionnaires. However the club does not have its own notice board at the entrance to the hall and parents do not have clear information there about the registration of the club and how to contact Ofsted.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the good organisation of the club. Space is used very effectively, in the hall and outside, to provide a broad range of activities which the children enjoy. Activities are well planned and there is generous provision of good quality resources. There are times for children to be active and quiet times. Children make their own choices about activities so that they, particularly the younger children, do not become too tired.

The club has a comprehensive framework of policies and procedures which are being updated to ensure children's health and safety. Policies and procedures are implemented conscientiously by staff for the welfare of the children. Children benefit from the fact that the club is one of the services offered by the leisure centre and the club enjoys the support of the personnel and resources. However, information for parents, should make very clear the specific responsibilities and conditions of the club's registration by Ofsted.

Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Staff are employed through the centre's personnel and employment procedures to ensure that they are vetted and suitable to work with children. Staff attend relevant training and the leader has a NVQ level 3 qualification so that the childcare practice is professional with opportunities for improvement.

Overall, the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was agreed that supervision of staff who have not received confirmation of clearance, would be improved so that children are protected. Currently all staff have been vetted and there are good procedures in place, for

instance, when children go to the toilets to ensure children's protection. It was also agreed that a registration system would be developed so that all visitors to the premises are recorded. There is a system for visitors to sign in at the reception desk at the entrance to the centre. However, this is not always rigorously put into practice as, for instance, the inspector was not asked to sign in on the day of the inspection. Written permission from parents for seeking the necessary emergency treatment or advice was a recommendation agreed at the last inspection and this permission is now recorded for each child for the welfare of children in an emergency. It was agreed that the complaints procedure given to parents would include details of how to contact Ofsted. The complaints leaflet given to parents is a general leaflet for the centre which does not include details of how to contact Ofsted. It is not clear to parents that the holiday club is registered by Ofsted in its own right. Therefore this recommendation is carried forward at this inspection as there is the potential for children's welfare to be adversely affected.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- improve information which is displayed for parents at the club including the registration certificate and the poster informing them how to contact Ofsted.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk