



Hedgehog Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	221695
Inspection date	19 October 2006
Inspector	Kelly Eyre
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Registered person	Huntingdon District Council Community Services, Hun
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care, Crèche

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Hedgehog Club and Toddler Stop Crèche have been open for approximately 15 years. They are located within Huntingdon Leisure Centre, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire and are provided by Huntingdonshire District Council Leisure Services. The Hedgehog Club offers holiday care for 75 children aged from five to under eight years and is open during each school holiday from Monday to Friday, with sessions from 08:30 to 17:30. There are currently 200 children on roll. The sports hall is the main area of the building used for the Hedgehog club. Care is also provided for children over the age of eight.

The Toddler Stop Crèche provides care for children aged from birth to under five years old. It is open throughout the year, on each weekday from 09:00 to 15:00. There are currently 110 children on roll. The crèche is for the use of customers of the leisure centre only. Outdoor play is accommodated through the use of the adjacent park. Both settings are able to support children with learning difficulties, disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche employs three members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The holiday club employs 20 members of staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy an appropriate range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. They develop control of their bodies and improve their physical skills and co-ordination as they participate in activities such as music and movement sessions and action rhymes. Children attending the holiday club are offered further opportunities to participate in activities which promote their physical development and enable them to explore and develop new skills. These include games such as bench ball, football, rounders and 'kwik cricket', and daily use of the swimming pool.

Children are cared for in a comfortable, clean environment where there are appropriate facilities to meet their varying needs. There are effective daily hygiene practices which minimise the spread of infection and promote their health, for example, staff wear appropriate protective clothing when changing nappies and children wash their hands before snacks and after using the bathroom. Children's special requirements with regard to diet and allergies are well documented and parents' wishes are respected. However, children's confidentiality is not fully protected as information regarding their allergies is displayed within the setting. Clear records are kept of children's health needs, enabling staff to provide appropriate care. There are staff on the premises who have received first aid training and are always available to help in an emergency situation. However, crèche and holiday club staff have not attended the appropriate first aid training for infants and young children, which would result in a delay in taking immediate action.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where their photos and work are displayed, promoting their sense of belonging. Their safety is given a high priority because staff have a good understanding of this area. They take positive steps to remove or minimise any potential hazards or safety risks, for example, all heating pipes are securely covered with sturdy wooden guards. Comprehensive daily safety checks of all areas ensure that children are able to move around safely and independently. Children are well protected because there are good procedures for checking and monitoring all visitors to the setting. Their safety when using the swimming pool is particularly well promoted because staff ensure that they have full information about individual children's ability in the water, providing appropriate swimming aids for each child and increasing staff ratios to supervise children in this area.

Children are developing a clear understanding about taking responsibility and keeping themselves and others safe. They are consistently given explanations by staff who explain the safety rules at the start of each holiday session. Their safety is further promoted by the provision of appropriate equipment such as correctly sized chairs, tables and travel cots. Resources are well organised and children are able to select toys and activities independently, for example, selecting additional craft materials from the accessible storage unit. Children's welfare is effectively promoted as staff have a clear understanding of child protection procedures and are able to identify, report and follow up any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled. They enjoy their time at the crèche and happily participate in the activities provided. Their independence is promoted as they choose resources and activities during the sessions. They are confident in their relationships with staff, initiating conversations with them and approaching them for help when needed. Babies and young children settle well and quickly become secure because staff take time to get to know the children. They make sure that they are aware of all routines and individual needs, for example, ensuring that babies are able to sleep according to their normal routine.

Children feel valued and welcome because staff are caring and show children that they enjoy their company. They are aware of children's interests and are able to promote their development as they join in with their play and activities, adapting these to suit the needs of the children. For example, a member of staff sits with children who are playing with play dough, encouraging the older children to roll the dough with rolling pins and cut shapes, whilst helping the younger ones to explore the texture of the dough and roll this in their hands. Activities for children attending the crèche are not planned in advance but staff respond to the needs of children attending each session and to their individual requests. For example, a child asks to use the paint stamps and helps the staff member to tidy away the ball pool before putting these out. Children's learning is appropriately extended because staff make effective use of open questions to encourage them to think further and extend their play. An example of this is a group of children playing with play food, where they are encouraged to discuss other types of food and talk about their favourites.

Evidence demonstrates that children attending the holiday clubs are offered an appropriate and varied range of activities which enable them to enjoy their holidays whilst extending their learning and development. Staff plan ahead to ensure that children are offered sufficient variety and that resources are available. Activities are often linked to themes, for example, whilst following a theme of 'Halloween', children make pop-up monsters, design a spooky board game, work together to make a Halloween collage, participate in role play, make pumpkin lanterns and face masks and join in with the party at the end of the scheme. They are also offered a range of sports such as bench ball, rounders and swimming.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are respected as individuals because staff make sure that they are aware of all needs, routines and requirements. They are offered some activities and play resources that help promote their understanding of other cultures and ways of life. These include activities connected with celebrations such as Easter, Christmas, Chinese New Year and Halloween. However, this selection does not represent the diversity of society and therefore does not fully extend children's knowledge of this area. Children's individual special needs are discussed with parents and there is a clear policy regarding special needs which details how the service will be provided. The appropriate levels of support ensure that all children are included and receive sufficient individual attention so that their needs can be effectively met.

Children's behaviour is good throughout the sessions as they choose their activities and share toys and resources. They are beginning to take responsibility for their behaviour because they are generally offered explanations by staff, enabling them to understand this and to make decisions about how they behave. Children benefit from the setting's effective relationship with parents and carers. They are given information about the setting when their child starts, ensuring that they are aware of all policies and procedures and can help their child to settle. For example, a leaflet regarding the holiday care explains issues such as booking, behaviour management and child protection and gives details about general activities. Parents are kept adequately informed of their children's progress and activities through discussions with staff and some displays of work.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, children's needs are met. They benefit from an effectively organised setting and a well-planned environment. Their play opportunities are enhanced by the clear organisation of space, allowing them the freedom to move safely and to feel confident in initiating their own play and learning. For example, the crèche is set up to meet the varying needs of the children who attend, accommodating snack time, imaginative play, construction and messy play and providing a safe area for babies and younger children to play. Children's welfare, care and safety are generally promoted through the practical, daily implementation of policies and the robust procedures which are in place to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. However, their daily safety is compromised because Ofsted has not been informed of changes to management and appropriate checks have therefore not been initiated.

Staff have ensured that all relevant paperwork and records are in place and are easily accessible so that they are able to promote children's safety and welfare at all times. For example, daily records for the crèche record where parents are located within the leisure centre so that staff are able to contact them quickly should an emergency occur.

Improvements since the last inspection

At their last inspection, the setting was asked to ensure that the record of medication administered is signed by parents and that all accidents are recorded. Clear record sheets are

now in place for each of these and are signed by both staff and parents, further promoting children's health and welfare. They were asked to provide opportunities for parents to access the policies and procedures. Key policies are now displayed, a parents' information leaflet contains further details and there is a file available to parents, ensuring that they are well informed and promoting good relationships. The setting was also asked to update the procedures for complaints and uncollected children. These have been reviewed so that they contain relevant information to enable staff to take appropriate action to promote children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure that children's confidentiality is protected. This refers to the displaying of the allergies list
- ensure that there is at least one member of staff with a current first aid training certificate on the premises at any one time. The first aid qualification includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- ensure that children have access to an appropriate range of activities and resources which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- ensure that Ofsted is informed of changes to the management of the setting so that appropriate checks can be completed.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk