

Leyton Leisure Lagoon Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	155064
Inspection date	29 February 2008
Inspector	Rufia Uddin
Setting Address	Leyton Leisure Lagoon, 763 High Road Leyton, London, E10 5AB
Telephone number	020 8558 8858
E-mail	
Registered person	Greenwich Leisure Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of 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?

Leyton Leisure Lagoon Centre Crèche is registered to Greenwich Leisure Limited and managed by Leyton Leisure Lagoon Centre. It offers crèche facilities for members of the Leisure Centre and has been operating since October 2000. It is situated in the Leyton area, within easy walking distance of public transport and community resources in the London borough of Waltham Forest.

The crèche operates from the first floor of the Plumtree Centre. The provision is accessible to wheelchair users, and the group welcomes children with disabilities.

There are currently 100 children aged from 0 to under 5 years on roll.

The crèche opens four days a week all year round. It operates from 10:00 to 12:00 on Monday, from 10:00 to 14:00 on Tuesday, from 09:45 to 12:00 on Thursday and from 09:45 to 11 :45 on Friday.

The crèche is registered for 20 children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old. The group supports children who speak English as an additional language.

Five members of staff are based in the crèche, including the crèche manager.

Four of them have appropriate early years qualifications to National Vocational Qualification level 2 or 3, and three of them have current first aid certificates.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted by the provision's implementation of suitable sickness policies and procedures. Details of illness, infection and associated exclusions are displayed. Children's health is assured in an emergency situation because first aid boxes are easily accessible and staff have current first aid qualifications. Accident records are completed with parents' signatures, and confidentiality is maintained. Required consents are in place, including those for emergency procedures, which enables practitioners to respond to situations effectively and without delay. Children are developing a satisfactory understanding of how to follow personal hygiene routines. They know, for example, to wash their hands after undertaking arts and crafts activities and visiting the toilet. Staff promote satisfactory hygiene procedures. The premises, equipment and furniture are clean and well-maintained. Parents generally change nappies, rather than staff. There is an area for them to do this and facilities are provided. There are wipes and mats. There is no specific bin for the disposal of used nappies. Drinks are provided by parents. Fresh drinking water is also provided by the group if and when necessary.

Babies and young children enjoy a satisfactory range of physical play experiences, which are planned according to their individual needs and stages of development. They enjoy daily opportunities to participate in physical activities which develop their co-ordination and skills, such as catching balls, pushing prams and riding bikes indoors. Equipment - such as play gyms, tunnels and walkers - helps babies to develop their physical skills and to learn to crawl and walk unaided. Children are not encouraged to play outside, visit the park, or go for walks to benefit from fresh air and exercise. Resources and equipment are still being developed in order to provide more physical challenges for all children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children pursue their activities in a bright and welcoming child centred environment. They are able to move around safely, freely and independently due to the effective organisation of space and resources. The toilets are situated adjacent to the playroom, which ensures ease of access and good supervision. Visitors sign into the leisure centre but there are no visitor records specifically for the crèche. However, children are kept secure with controlled access to playrooms, and there is good visibility to see visitors.

Furniture, equipment and toys are well maintained, which promotes children's safety and comfort, with resources stored in containers. A daily risk assessment is undertaken and written records are kept to ensure consistency of checks. The premises provide a safe environment with the practitioners diligently providing effective supervision. Practitioners intervene to ensure children's safety at appropriate moments through careful observation and monitoring of children's movements. Children are well protected in case of fire. All relevant signage and fire fighting equipment is in place, fire evacuation procedures are displayed, and fire drills take place regularly and are recorded.

Staff have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities with regard to child protection, which ensures children's welfare is safeguarded. They have knowledge of signs and symptoms, and know how to record and refer any concerns. All staff are vetted and an appropriate collection of children policy is implemented. Procedures are clearly set out and confidentiality is respected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children generally take part in their chosen activities happily. They have opportunities to participate in different sized groupings, as well as play independently. The good range of resources effectively support children's development and learning. There are good opportunities for mark making and pursuing a range of arts and crafts, with an adult-led creative activity normally provided each session. They pursue their imaginative and creative ideas through a range of media, including hand and foot paints, printing materials, sticking, and cutting. Children enjoy story time and looking at books.

Children make happy vocal sounds as they play. Toddlers and older children demonstrate good cognitive skills and hand-to-eye coordination; they enjoy making floor puzzles together, for example. Children enjoy playing with musical resources and pop-up toys. Children are developing an appreciation for books as they sit with the childminder for story time. Younger children enjoy looking at the illustrations, whilst older children talk about the story and occasionally predict what might happen. Children are learning about concepts such as smaller and bigger and about colour. They all enjoy singing songs and performing action rhymes together. Children enjoy pretending to be doctors and learn about health and bodily awareness when they use a jigsaw puzzle about the human body. A weekly planning sheet is used in line with the areas of learning. However, outcomes for children under three as identified in the Birth to three matters framework are not incorporated into planning activities for younger children. Also, formalised observations and assessments are not routinely undertaken on individual children, and therefore do not feed into the planning process.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff have good knowledge of children's backgrounds and effectively meets their individual needs. Children become aware of the wider society as they explore a range of festivals and religious and cultural traditions, including those relating to black history, Eid, Chinese New Year and Diwali. However, resources depicting cultural diversity and disability are satisfactory, limiting opportunities to further develop children's knowledge and understanding of these areas. Both girls and boys are encouraged to participate in all activities to promote their range of experiences. The group demonstrates a positive attitude to promoting an inclusive environment, staff for example attend courses to improve their knowledge and ability. Close liaison with parents and outside agencies would take place for a child with a disability and policies and procedures relating to codes of practice are available to ensure correct procedures would be followed.

Staff have positive relationships with children, and spend time chatting and playing with them. They respond to their questions and ask them questions about the activities they are involved in, for example when engaged in role play and completing puzzles. This supports building relationships and children's thinking, and encourages them to feel secure and happy. Children

are well behaved and settle well when they arrive at the group. They share and co-operate well with others when playing. Staff use positive behaviour management strategies with the children, such as making good eye contact and smiling as they provide purposeful praise, which enhances their self-esteem. Children know the rules of the group and are polite and well behaved. They readily comply with instructions; for example, helping when it is "tidy up time".

Children benefit from the friendly relationships between staff and parents. Parents are always on site so are able to be reached at any time. Staff work well to ensure parents feel comfortable when leaving their children to attend training or classes in the building. Parents enjoy informal daily feedback from the staff, which keeps them continually up-to-date with their child's care, activities and progress. Useful and important information, such as the certificate of registration and the Ofsted parent poster are displayed in the hall. These advise parents and carers of the group's conditions of registration and inform them of how to make any comments or complaints. Positive comments have been received from parents and carers, praising the staff for their dedicated and committed approach and the good quality care, learning and support provided.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The crèche manager has responsibility for day to day management. The manager has relevant qualifications and experience in childcare and has attended a range of courses to develop her practice. Overall, the manager has a good understanding of the National Standards and is aware of most of the regulations and requirements she must meet. Although she overlooked the requirement to notify Ofsted promptly when a new manager is in place, a breach of regulations, the impact was minimised by the fact that by the time of inspection the paperwork was in the post and the manager had been through the necessary Criminal Record Bureau checks.

Staff work well together and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Required ratios are adhered to at all times and a pool of relief staff can be tapped into if needed. An induction procedure is implemented for new staff. The organisation of space and resources is suitable for children's play and learning needs.

Satisfactory record keeping systems are implemented. Most of the required information is kept, and stored in a manner to protect confidentiality. There is a good range of policies and procedures and an appropriate complaints procedure is in place. The attendance record contains information of times of arrival and departure.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the group was asked to devise a system for planning and implementing a more varied range of activities for children, appropriate to their stage of development and individual needs, and to ensure policies and procedures are readily available to parents at all times.

The group has planned and introduced a more varied range of activities, and has reviewed policies and procedures which are available to parents. This helps to promote child development and partnership with parents.

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):

- provide bins specifically for the disposal of used nappies, and provide children with opportunities to go out for physical activities and fresh air
- ensure visitors to the crèche sign the visitor's book
- continue to develop planning systems which incorporate the needs of individual children and include outcomes for the younger children in line with the Birth to three matters framework
- ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- ensure Ofsted is notified promptly of significant events and changes including any changes of manager.

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