



Penzance Leisure Centre Creche

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY316174
Inspection date	08 March 2006
Inspector	Lynne Stephanie Bowden
Setting Address	Penzance Leisure Centre, St. Clare, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 3QW
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Registered person	Stephen Richard Trow
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?

Penzance Leisure Centre crèche and out of school play scheme are run by Stephen Trow. It opened in 2005 and operates from three rooms in the leisure centre. It is situated in Penzance, Cornwall. A maximum of ten children may attend the crèche and twenty children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The crèche is open each weekday from 09:30 until 16:00 for 52 weeks of the year and the play scheme is open during school holidays from 8:30 until 17:30.

There are currently 100 children from birth to 7 years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area. The setting currently supports a number of children with special

educational needs.

The setting employs five staff. All staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3.

The setting receives support from the family information service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from illness and infection by the staff maintaining and promoting good and effective hygiene procedures. Older children independently take themselves to the toilet and staff gently remind children to wash their hands appropriately. Staff follow effective nappy changing procedures. Children are protected from infection through the suitable exclusion policy and procedures for sick children. Children receive effective care in an emergency, sufficient staff have first aid training and follow appropriate procedures.

Staff are aware of individual children's dietary needs. They encourage children to enjoy and eat packed lunches and snacks provided by parents. However, lack of suitable equipment such as high or low chairs make it difficult for toddlers to sit comfortably. They are able to move and crawl away, so good habits are not reinforced and they are not able to attempt to feed themselves. Drinking water is not readily available for children. It is stored in a large heavy jug, so they cannot help themselves to it and there is limited table top space for it.

There is no outdoor play available, but effective use is made of indoor equipment and space to develop children's physical skills and encourage exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in safe, secure premises. The play room is welcoming, brightly decorated with children's work and a bright inviting range of resources. Children play safely, carefully supervised at all times in areas that have been made safe. Security is very effective, with a combination lock on the door, so staff control access. The simple but very effective system for collection of children ensures that they are only released to their parents and carers. Children's safety and welfare is protected by the staff's awareness and knowledge of child protection issues and procedures.

There is a suitable emergency evacuation plan, which staff are familiar with, but children have not practised it and so are not familiar with it. There is generally an adequate range of age appropriate toys and equipment available, which interest children. All available equipment is suitable and meets safety standards.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settle in with ease and have very good relationships with staff. They confidently and appropriately request help and initiate conversations with staff about their own experiences. They are able to access an extensive range of resources, which interest and amuse them.

Key workers use their knowledge of the children to plan and provide appropriate care. They give reassurance, physical comfort and attention to young children and extend the play of older children as they help them play with and use resources. They encourage children in their achievements, giving warm praise and appropriate support. So children smile with delight and pleasure as they proudly demonstrate their achievements to their parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff have good procedures to include and settle new children in. They have sound individual knowledge of children, using information given by parents. They provide effective attention, comfort and security to children on arrival. They use their knowledge of children well to keep them occupied and busy, so they behave well.

There is a limited range of resources to teach children about other cultures and lifestyles and none show positive images of people with disabilities. As a result they have limited awareness of difference and diversity.

Staff have good experience of dealing with children with special needs and provide appropriate one to one care. Prospective parents are welcome to visit the setting, meet the staff and discuss its routine and children's needs. Staff give parents written information about children's activities and routines. They share information informally, having established warm relaxed relationships with parents, so all can provide consistent care to children. Parents receive adequate information about the procedures of the setting through the leisure centre children's activity policy leaflet and the crèches own handbook

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from care by a consistent team of staff. An effective induction system is in place to ensure that staff are all aware of necessary policies and procedures. Effective appraisal systems are established and which take place every six months, when staff's training needs are identified. Informal team meetings are used to share information, but staff lack resources to keep up to date and there is no formal system to share good practice and new information. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The key worker system is effectively used, so children feel secure and develop close relationships with staff.

Effective use is made of available resources, which engage children's interest. The lack of some resources makes it difficult for children to learn about and appreciate difference and to sit in comfort to eat snacks and meals. The room is suitably divided enabling young children to crawl and toddle in safety.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to report made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- improve the range of resources to enable children to learn about and appreciate diversity and to sit in comfort to eat.
- develop systems for staff to share good practice and new information
- ensure that children are familiar with emergency evacuation procedures

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