

## Beach Leisure Centre Early Learners Day Care of Children

Beach Leisure Centre  
Beach Promenade  
Aberdeen  
AB24 5NR

Telephone: 01224 655457

Type of inspection: Unannounced  
Inspection completed on: 19 March 2018

**Service provided by:**  
Aberdeen City Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000349

**Care service number:**  
CS2003001808

## About the service

Beach Leisure Centre Early Learners was registered on 1 April 2002. It is currently registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 12 children aged from birth to 8 years of age.

The service operates Monday to Friday, between the hours of 9.00am and 2.30pm. Sessional care is offered to individual children for periods of up to 3 hours in any one day.

The service is located within the Beach Leisure Centre in Aberdeen. It is primarily for the benefit of people using the sports facilities, however, it can also be used by members of the public.

The aims of the crèche are encompassed within the wider vision and aims for all Aberdeen Childcare Services. The vision is that: "Children and families in Aberdeen gain access to high quality learning experiences that holistically meet their developmental needs within local communities".

We check services are meeting the principles of Getting it right for every child (also known as GIRFEC). This is Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with the services that can help them. There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of GIRFEC. They are: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.

We are carrying out a pilot using the Short Observational Framework for Inspection (SOFI 2) tool. The tool supports inspectors to carry out focussed observations of children's experiences while at nursery. We carried out a SOFI 2 observation as part of this inspection which has informed our findings. The findings are threaded throughout the report.

## What people told us

We sent out questionnaires for parents and carers to complete prior to the inspection taking place. Parents and carers who completed and returned these spoke very positively about the service. This included the following comments:

"I have used this service now for a couple of years. My son always looks forward to going along to his weekly session. There is always a variety of toys and activities and when he has snack it is always healthy and enjoyable. I find the staff very friendly and helpful and I feel that they have gotten to know my son well. It's a very caring environment for the children".

"(The practitioner) and her team have been excellent - especially with my youngest when she was upset to leave me. The staff are great".

"My daughters manners have increased significantly since starting at the crèche. She always brings her plate when she has finished eating. She loves the staff and enjoys each day with them".

We also looked at comments from the feedback book available at the crèche for parents and carers to comment on the quality of the service. Again feedback was very positive. Parents talked of their children's development progressing very well and felt that the crèche had been instrumental in this. They also thought that the children were provided with very good care.

## Self assessment

The service had not been asked to complete a self assessment in advance of the inspection. The staff were able to evidence that they continually reflected on practice and were focused on improving the service further.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	5 - Very Good
Quality of management and leadership	not assessed

## What the service does well

We found the quality of care and support to be very good.

Staff interacted very positively with the children which helped create a welcoming and nurturing environment. They knew the children and their families very well. Personal plans were in place for each child which outlined their needs, preferences and routines.

The staff talked knowledgeably and confidently about how they supported each child's individual needs, giving very clear examples of practice. This helped to keep the children safe and healthy.

Children were encouraged to develop their skills through a range of activities which helped them to build in confidence and feel a sense of achievement. We saw that the play experiences were developed using knowledge of the children's individual interests such as food preparation, role play and exploring different textures.

Staff had a very good understanding of attachment theory following training and we could see how this had impacted upon their practice. In particular they thought carefully about how they supported children to settle in to the service and gave thought to preferred staff members providing main support. They understood about transitions and how to support the children with this. Very positive working relationships had been built up with parents which helped ensure effective communication about changing needs and family circumstances. This also helped to support positive outcomes for the children.

The service had been focusing on developing their range of natural resources. We found children, for example actively engaged in using screwdrivers to screw in screws to pieces of wood. They were also really enjoying using cardboard boxes and tubes in their play. Staff were very positive about this, finding that these open-ended resources helped the children to be more creative. Plastic play house resources had been replaced with real household items such as whisks, spoons and pans in the house corner. Again this had been positively received by the children.

We found the quality of staffing to be very good.

We observed the staff team to be very cohesive. They had built up effective relationships with each other, communicated very well and were confident in their role.

The staff were very well-trained. This was reflected in their practice and in their knowledge and understanding. In particular they had a very good understanding of attachment, promoting positive play experiences for children and child protection.

The organisation had supported the staff to continually develop. The practitioner was currently progressing through SVQ 4. We saw that this had supported her to be more reflective and focused on evaluating and continually improving the service. The team were very clear about the key areas they were working on within the service to develop it further and were highly motivated to do this. Both of the support workers were able to take on the practitioner role when cover was needed. This helped them to develop their leadership skills and helped provide continuity for the children.

Support arrangements for staff were effective. Monthly practitioners meetings were valued as they helped keep staff up to date with best practice. The practitioners benefitted from discussions with practitioners from other services. The manager visited the service on a regular basis and was described as being very supportive and approachable. We saw how the manager worked to motivate her team and support any learning and development needs very well.

## What the service could do better

The service could further develop their system for planning children's activities and experiences. There was not always evidence to support the reasoning behind why particular topics or activities were chosen, such as it was a child's specific interest or an identified need.

Observations were in place for children who attended the service on a regular basis. This was a record of children's learning and achievements, often with photographs to help bring this to life. The staff had been working on developing these further and we saw some good recordings. We found that next steps were not always identified and there was not a process to review whether the next step had been achieved. The team were keen to develop this further.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
31 Mar 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
11 Mar 2014	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
16 Aug 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 4 - Good
2 Nov 2011	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
24 Nov 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing Not assessed Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
24 Mar 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment Not assessed Staffing 4 - Good Management and leadership 3 - Adequate
31 Mar 2009	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 3 - Adequate Staffing 3 - Adequate Management and leadership 3 - Adequate

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