



## **Super Camps Ltd @ Dean Close School**

Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY287474  
**Inspection date** 17 August 2005  
**Inspector** Jennifer Read

**Setting Address** Dean Close School, Shelburne Road, Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire, GL51 6HE

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**Registered person** Super Camps Ltd  
**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](http://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 inadequate - enforcement action. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Super Camps Ltd @ Dean Close School is part of the Super Camps Ltd chain of holiday clubs. It opened in 2004 and operates from the sports hall, two classrooms, the gym, portacabin, main hall and swimming pool set in the premises of Dean Close School on the outskirts of Cheltenham town. Outside facilities include use of the school playing field, Astro turf and hard courts. Children come from a wide catchment area, as most of their parents travel to work in or around Cheltenham.

A maximum of 80 children may attend at any one time. There are currently 400

children on roll from the age of 4 years to 14 years. The camp is open each week day from 08.00 and 18.00 during some school holidays including, one week at Easter and four weeks during the month of August.

The camp employs eight staff. No member of staff, including the manager hold appropriate Early Years qualifications. Two staff are qualified specialist coaches in trampoline and swimming.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is compromised because ineffective systems are in place to maintain cleanliness in the setting and ensure all areas are suitable for children's use. Staff do not actively reinforce or monitor children's hygiene routines, provide soap to enhance hand washing or implement health and hygiene procedures consistently. Some children wash their hands after using the toilet, however, no child washes their hands before meal-times. This means children do not learn good personal hygiene to promote a healthy lifestyle and prevent the spread of infection. Suitable systems are in place when children are ill.

Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and daily opportunities for regular physical exercise. Some children develop control of their bodies and learn new skills as they throw and catch balls, run, swim and join in athletics. Some children enjoy new physical challenges because staff plan different sports activities. For example, junior orienteering, gymnastics, soft ball and bench ball. However, children do not learn the importance of physical exercise on their bodies. Children learn to protect themselves from the sun because staff help them apply sun creams and lotions and organise some activities in shaded areas. Although, children's health is put at risk from an allergic reaction because sun creams are not specific to individual children.

Children benefit from staff's guidance to eat their sandwiches first, and appropriate storage of lunch boxes helps keep food cool and fresh. Children have access to regular drinks to ensure they do not remain thirsty. However, routines for washing and rinsing cups before children use them again is not appropriate and does not protect children's health.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is inadequate.

Children do not benefit from a safe, secure environment. Their welfare and safety is put at risk because unsatisfactory security precautions are in place. Risk assessments do not highlight potential hazards and dangers adequately and staff have poor awareness and understanding of appropriate supervision, and policies and procedures. Risk of accidental injury is heightened because staff

do not identify or recognise potential risks, for example the use of, and walk to and

from the changing rooms while extensive building work is taking place. The entrance is not secure and monitored consistently, as a result children's welfare and safety is put in danger because staff fail to protect children from uncleared adults.

Children have little understanding of safety because low priority is given to help them develop understanding of procedures. Children are not involved in developing any safety rules, do not all practise the emergency escape plan or have daily discussions to reinforce procedures. Consequently, children do not learn how to keep themselves safe to safeguard their well-being. Children use the available space appropriately for different activities and a small selection of the children's pictures decorate the wall to help make the environment cheerful and welcoming. Equipment is in generally good order and well maintained but restricted access means children do not safely and independently choose resources and equipment.

Children's welfare is reasonably well protected because staff have sufficient understanding of appropriate action to take with a child protection concern. A detailed copy of procedures is displayed and available to staff and parents at all times.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are broadly content, friendly and settled in the setting. They have generally good relationships with staff and communicate confidently with each other and visitors which helps increase their sense of belonging. A large range of planned sports, games and swimming events provide good levels of challenge. For example, athletics, art attack and escape and evasion. However, children do not contribute ideas to the planning and it is not specific to those children who attend to meet their individual interests and needs. Activities and experiences are not well thought through to promote inclusion and enjoyment for children at all times during the day. Consequently, children become bored and restless.

The younger children enjoy the treasure hunt and play co-operatively as they give each other clues while eagerly searching the outside area for animal pictures. Some younger children learn to express themselves as they create dance moves, listen to the music and participate in party games. Most children join in ball games, rounders and football for periods of time but staff fail to respond when children show limited interest. Children make few decisions in their play because activities and routines are overly adult-directed. Unclear organisation of resources and play materials means children are not able to access resources and additional toys independently which restricts their choices. Some of the older children enthusiastically slide and slither down the water tunnel, however organisation of the activity is not effective subsequently children wait around a lot and become restless.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is inadequate.

Some children behave well and respond appropriately to staff's guidance. However,

many children gain little understanding of how to manage their own behaviour because staff do not implement the well-written policy, and spend much time supervising their behaviour. Staff do not discuss or encourage children to devise and write their behaviour rules, consequently, children do not know what is expected of them. The youngest children receive frequent praise and encouragement to value their achievements and promote their self esteem. However, this is not consistent for older children.

Children develop a basic cultural awareness through a very small selection of planned activities and experiences. For example, making masks. However, play resources which show positive images of culture, ethnicity and gender are not available. The individual needs and interests of all children who

attend are not well met. Some staff have adequate awareness of the issues surrounding the care of children with special needs although none currently attend.

Children benefit from a friendly partnership with staff and parents. Useful systems are in place to help keep parents informed about the setting and their child's activities. Weekly activity plans, policies and procedures, lists of children's groups and questionnaires are displayed and available to parents at all times. Some staff share basic and general information with parents about their child's care through occasional discussion.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The poor leadership and management, and failure to comply with the National Standards and regulations has severe consequences on children's safety, well-being and enjoyment. Inadequate recruitment and induction procedures means children are cared for by unqualified and inexperienced staff. Procedures are not sufficiently rigorous to ensure that staff are secure in their understanding and awareness of all policies. Staff overlook the requirement to ensure children are safe, secure and their health promoted, and have not considered the potential impact of this oversight on children's well-being.

Most staff are unaware of how to promote positive outcomes for children and overall the organisation of care fails to meet and protect children's needs. For example, most areas used to care for the children have not been approved or registered for use by the camp. Subsequently children's welfare is put at risk.

Most staff are keen, enthusiastic and work well together to help make activities interesting for most children. The operational plan is not complete to ensure children are cared for in a well organised setting. Policies and procedures are generally in place. However, it is not well organised, basic in content and several items omitted, which makes it difficult to use. Most records and documentation for the efficient and safe management of the setting is in place and shared with parents. The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 inadequate - enforcement action. The registered person does not meet 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**

Ofsted is taking **enforcement action** to safeguard the welfare of children.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)