



Cranford House School

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspector	Sheena Bankier
Setting Address	Moulsford, Wallingford, OX10 9HT
Telephone number	01235 772173
E-mail	info@supercamps.co.uk
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.

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

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Cranford House out of school care is run by the Supercamps Limited organisation. It opened in 2002 and operates from Cranford House school in Moultsford, near Wallingford. A maximum of 64 children under eight may attend at any one time. Older children up to the age of 13 may also attend. The setting is open from 08.00 to 18.00 five days a week, during the school holidays. Children have access to a large outdoor area which includes a swimming pool. Children come from the local and surrounding area.

The organisation employs 15 members of staff. Of these, the manager holds

appropriate qualifications and other staff are students who are working towards degrees in early years, sports, psychology and drama.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a wide variety of physical activities both in and out of doors. They enjoy regular swimming sessions in the outdoor pool and there is a large outdoor area for children to run around and play games on. Children also have access to an adventure playground and enjoy music and movement sessions indoors. This encourages children to be physically active for their good health. Staff ensure children regularly apply sun screen to protect their skin. Parents are requested to provide sun hats for children although these are often not brought. As children spend a lot of time outdoors this puts children at risk from the effects of the sun.

Children regularly access drinks, for example, there are water fountains available around the school site and children can carry their own drinks bottles with them. Staff encourage children to drink regularly. During the morning and afternoon break times, children are offered drinks of squash or water to drink and can also access their lunch boxes for snacks. However, children do not always sit down to eat. This puts children in danger of choking. Parents are encouraged to provide a healthy lunch box with an ice pack to keep food fresh. This contributes to the children's good health and well-being. Children eat lunch together with staff which makes it a social occasion.

Staff help to maintain a suitable environment for children as they all share responsibility to keep the premises clean and tidy. Staff are aware of the importance of hygiene routines, such as children washing their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. However, these routines are not always consistent; for example, some children did not wash their hands before eating at the morning break time.

Children's health is put at risk as at times medication is accessible to children. The consent from parents for seeking emergency treatment and advice for children is not an individual consent for those who have booked places over the telephone or internet. The procedure for gaining consent is not suitable as it does not make parents sufficiently aware of what they are signing up to when they complete the daily attendance records. Medical staff may also find this form of consent insufficient to administer treatment. This puts children's health and welfare at risk.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children learn about keeping themselves safe as there is clear information about the boundaries and rules. Staff encourage children's awareness of safety through discussion and questions, for example, as they use the zebra crossing in place on the school site. Children have a good understanding of the emergency evacuation procedure as staff discuss this at the morning registration and a weekly practice is

carried out. Risk assessments cover all areas and are updated as changes occur, such as building work being undertaken. Children move around the school site in their allocated groups with staff to ensure they are supervised at all times. This greatly reduces the potential hazards and dangers to children. Children have use of an outdoor swimming pool and a qualified lifeguard is employed to supervise its use. The youngest children are required to wear arm-bands and parents provide information regarding children's swimming abilities and a short swim test is also undertaken. This helps to ensure children's safety in the water.

The main registration area is made warm and welcoming to parents and children. This has been decorated with art-work and information is displayed. Children have access to sufficient and suitable resources which enable them to fully participate in the activities on offer. Staff are aware of maintaining the safety of the equipment used with the children through regular checks.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures and staff have undertaken some training as part of their induction. This means that children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled at the camp. New children are made to feel welcome by staff who give children reassurance and comfort when needed. This helps them to settle quickly and they then enjoy their day at camp. Staff recognise that children new to the setting sometimes feel unsure about joining in and encourage their participation but also respect their wishes to sit and watch. Children overall fully participate in the activities on offer and have fun together. Children form friendships with each other and enjoy good relationships with the staff. Children enjoy talking with staff and are confident to approach staff, for example, to ask questions. Staff interact well with the children, showing interest in them as individuals.

Children benefit from a wide range of activities which include swimming and extra activities, such as organised outings for horse riding. Children enjoy varied art and craft activities, for example, they make and decorate fish with paint, pencils and glue and use their creativity as they make clay models, using tools if they wish. They are able to be imaginative during planned activities, such as music and drama sessions. Staff show flexibility as they take into account the children's interests, for example, the group leader continues a clay activity as children are fully involved and interested. Children gain from this as they are able to finish their models in their own time without rushing to complete them.

Children have times when they can be active, for example, they play dodge ball indoors and ring games outside. Team games encourage children to work together and feel part of the group, such as playing with the parachute. Children have quieter times, such as story times and sometimes watch videos during face painting activities. This gives children opportunities to rest and relax which is important for their well-being.

Children enjoy free-play before and after the core part of the day and take part in activities, such as ball games on the playing field, indoor floor games and have access to drawing materials. This also enables children to interact between the different age groups providing contact with siblings and other friends at these times as well as during the break and lunch times. The well-planned activities for the main part of the day are focused. This at times reduces the children's ability to make their own choices and decisions. Staff have clear guidance regarding activities through written activity planners which are age related. This ensures that the activities are appropriate and that staff have a good understanding of the aims and objectives of them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about others through some of the activities, such as books which reflect diversity and the setting have links with an African charity and hold a weekly fund raising event. Staff support children sensitively as they discuss similarities and differences. This encourages the children's understanding and acceptance of others.

Children's individual needs are understood well. Parents provide information through discussion and on the booking form which helps staff to know and cater for children's needs appropriately. Staff get to know children by taking an interest in them and learn about their likes and dislikes during discussions and through observation. At the last inspection a recommendation was set to update children's individual records to include; language, cultural and religious observances. This has not been addressed. This information would further enhance the staff's knowledge and understanding about the individual children.

Children's behaviour is good. Staff provide a good role model to children as they are polite and calm. Staff use suitable strategies to manage children's unacceptable behaviour, for example, they use discussion and explanation to encourage the children's understanding of right and wrong. Children's good behaviour is positively reinforced with plenty of praise. The children are put into house groups across the age range and are awarded points for their house for good behaviour. Children are also individually rewarded for outstanding behaviour through certificates. Children are regularly praised by staff for their efforts and achievements. This develops and supports children's self-esteem and confidence.

There are good partnerships with parents. Staff are available to speak to parents as they arrive to drop off and collect their children. The policies and procedures and other related information is available for parents at the setting. Parents also have access to information via the Supercamps website. This provides parents with information to keep them well-informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Staff work well together as a team and good relationships are evident. The manager of the camp holds an appropriate qualification and other staff are working towards relevant qualifications and most have previous experience working with children. Regular team meetings are held and information is exchanged which enables staff to meet the needs of children. Staff are well motivated and show enthusiasm in their work. They use their time and resources effectively and interact and support the children well. Children enjoy time and attention from staff. Children enjoy a good range of well-planned activities. Children enjoy plenty of space in which to take part in the varied activities and good use is made of the available facilities.

Most paperwork is in place and mainly adheres to the requirements of the National Standards. However, the procedure to gain consents from parents is not adequate and a recommendation from the previous inspection to update children's information has not been addressed.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was set one action and 18 recommendations.

The action set was to ensure the name, address and telephone number of the registered person and every other person living or employed on the premises was available. The site manager has access to these details. This ensures necessary information is held regarding people who may have contact with the children. This helps to ensure the children's safety.

Seven recommendations were set regarding devising and updating paperwork.

One of these was to record times of arrival and departure of staff, children and visitors. This has been addressed and there is paperwork to record the times of arrival and departure of staff, children and visitors. This helps to safeguard children as an accurate record of attendance is kept of children and the staff who looked after them and any visitors to the premises.

A recommendation was set to obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. This is completed by parents who complete their booking forms by post. However, forms completed over the telephone or the internet are not signed by parents and the procedure put in place regarding this is not suitable. This does not ensure that all children's health and well-being is protected.

The setting was recommended to update children's individual records to include religion, language, cultural and religious observances. This has not been addressed. This information would further enhance the staff knowledge and understanding about the individual children.

The setting was given four recommendations to devise policies and procedures. These included a special needs policy, behaviour management policy and child protection policy and complaints procedure. These are now in place and made

available to parents. This gives clear guidance to staff and develops their practice in caring for the children.

Two recommendations were in regard to the staff records including evidence of staff vetting and to ensure individual staff records are available on site including evidence of qualifications. Information is held on site which enables the site manager to make informed decisions regarding the deployment of staff, ensuring that skills and experience in the staff team are balanced. Staff work under the supervision of vetted staff who have undertaken the required checks. This safeguards children's welfare.

Three recommendations related to the staff to children ratios and supervision of children. These were to ensure the required ratios for children under eight were maintained and children were supervised as they move around the site and at meal times. The under eights are closely supervised at all times and the required minimum ratio is adhered to. This ensures children are safe whilst at the camp.

Three recommendations were in regard to health and safety. These were to carry out evacuation practices for all new children, obtain advice regarding procedures and training for anaphylactic shock and ensure good hygiene procedures before meal times. Staff explain the evacuation procedure to children and a weekly drill takes place. This ensures children understand the procedure. Some staff have undertaken training in administering medication to children suffering from anaphylactic shock. Parents are requested to supply written information regarding cause and treatment and are asked to organise medically trained staff to show the camp staff how to administer the required medication. This ensures children's health needs can be accommodated. Children wash their hands before lunch although this is not consistent at break times when children at times access their lunch boxes for snacks without washing their hands. This puts children at risk of infection and illness.

One recommendation was to ensure children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The camp have addressed this through the art activities which encourage children's awareness of different countries, books that reflect diversity and the setting has links with charity to promote camps in Africa for disadvantaged children. This raises children's awareness and understanding of diversity.

Two recommendations related to child protection. These were to obtain the local child protection procedures and to attend child protection training. Local child protection information and contact numbers are held at the camp and staff undertake training as part of an online test and central training workshop before starting work at the camp. This ensures staff understand their responsibilities to protect children and relevant information is available if concerns are raised. This safeguards children's well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 good. 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 medication is inaccessible to children at all times
- ensure children's hygiene routines are consistent throughout the day and that children eat food safely at break times
- review and update records to ensure individual information for children is held, including obtaining consents from parents to seek emergency treatment and advice for children and that records detail the children's language, religious and cultural observances.

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