



Super Camps @ Heathfield School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY303316
Inspection date 01 August 2006
Inspector Jennifer Devine

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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.

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 - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Super Camps holiday play scheme is run by Super Camps Limited. It opened in 2005 and operates from Heathfield School in Pinner, in the London Borough of Hillingdon. A maximum of 80 children may attend the camp at any one time. Children over eight years and up to 13 years may also attend. The camp is open each weekday from 8.00 to 18.00 during the Easter and Summer school holidays. All children share access to a secure outdoor play area.

On the day of inspection during the summer holidays there were 63 children from

three to eight years on roll. The numbers of children on roll varies from day to day.

The camp employs various numbers of staff depending on the total number of children attending. On the day of inspection eight staff were employed to work with the children under eight years of whom three staff were qualified. Other staff are students at college or university.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's well being is not fully protected as staff are unaware of the policy and procedures for the safe administration of medication. Parents' written consent is obtained to allow medicines to be given but no records are maintained when medication is administered. Five staff hold first aid qualifications and are aware of the accident procedures which includes the recording of accidents. This ensures children's welfare is safeguarded in the event of an accident.

Children's good health is not promoted within the setting. This is due to the staff's lack of understanding of the importance of good hygiene. Children are not encouraged to wash their hands before eating their lunch and staff do not ensure tables are cleaned before using them.

Children's physical health is promoted well as they have daily opportunities to participate in a varied range of indoor and outdoor planned sports sessions.

Children enjoy and are well nourished by the healthy foods offered to them. All children have a packed lunch provided from home and parents are advised by the play scheme to use ice packs in lunch boxes to make sure foods remain consumable. Children's individual dietary needs are known by staff but during snack time younger children are not closely supervised to ensure they do not share foods.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move freely in a spacious environment with no obvious hazards to endanger them. Children are safe and secure on the premises because staff carry out procedures such as risk assessments to minimise possible dangers. The front entrance is monitored by staff at the beginning and end of the day and then kept securely locked during operational times. Group registers are taken at the start of each play session to ensure all children are present. The outdoor area is also secure and well maintained.

The classrooms used by the play scheme are light, bright, clean and welcoming for children. All equipment is regularly checked by staff to ensure it is clean and safe to use. Space is generally well organised to allow children to take part in activities and there are comfortable areas in the classrooms for children to relax and look at books.

Specialist sports activities such as swimming, quad bikes and the bouncy castle have individual risk assessments and policies devised to ensure children's safety. For example, lifeguards are always present on the poolside and a member of staff will supervise the younger children by being in the water with them.

Fire evacuation procedures are in place and weekly fire drills are conducted to ensure children are familiar with the process.

Children are protected from harm because the staff have a generally good understanding of child abuse and are aware of the procedures to follow if they were concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally happy and enthusiastic in the play scheme's welcoming environment. A full and comprehensive range of activities is planned in advance and timetabled for the different age groups. Each day of the week has different activities for the children to experience. Children participate in physical vigorous activities such as football, swimming or mini tennis, they have the opportunity to try quad bikes and can experience a variety of art and crafts or quieter activities. For example, children thoroughly enjoyed an imagination drama session where they could dress up and pretend to be pirates.

Staff interact satisfactorily with the children; they join in games and have fun with them. However, some sessions are not managed well due to the large size of the groups and this impacts on younger children losing interest and focus on the task. Children are able to take turns when playing games and are generally kind and considerate towards each other. They are confident to approach the staff and express their needs as required.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have the opportunity to socialise with others from the local and wider community. Staff are committed to ensuring that play provision is accessible to all and children with learning difficulties are welcome in the play scheme.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Appropriate praise and encouragement is given to enhance self esteem and confidence. Age appropriate and positive strategies are used to manage any behavioural difficulties that may arise.

Children benefit from good relationships between the staff and their parents which contributes to their well being. Information is available to parents that details the activities that the children take part in and routines of the day. Parents are greeted warmly by staff and have the opportunity to share any relevant information about their child to ensure their needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children's health and welfare is not adequately promoted because the provider and manager fail to respond appropriately to ensure the National Standards are met. The setting does not employ the required numbers of qualified staff and the manager does not suitably deploy the staff team to ensure the qualified staff present work with the children under eight years. Although minimum staffing ratios are met overall, the manager organises some staff to work as 'floats' where they move from group to group and this results in times when unqualified staff are left alone with large groups of children. This has an impact on the children not receiving adequate attention at all times.

Relevant policies and procedures are in place and most legally required documentation is in place, such as attendance and accident records. Medication records have not been adequately maintained.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the quality and standards of care was judged as inadequate. A number of actions were raised : to keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children; assess the risks in relation to activities and take action to minimise these; ensure children's records are kept on site and available for inspection and ensure that minimum staffing ratios are in place at all times.

Parents' written consent is now obtained for medication but the setting still does not keep accurate records when medication has been given. This impacts on children's health and safety.

Appropriate action has been taken to minimise the risks of swimming activities and procedures have been revised to ensure a lifeguard is always present on the poolside when children are in the water. The area manager reports that the mesh windows on the bouncy castle have been repaired to ensure it is safe for children to use. However, this bouncy castle was not being used at the setting on the day of the inspection.

Children's records are now stored on site and this helps to ensure the children's safety in the event of an emergency occurring.

Overall minimum staffing ratios are now being met but the deployment of staff is not always effective to benefit the children.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. 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

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- improve staff's understanding of good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection
- keep a written record of medicines given to children
- ensure at least half the staff hold a level 2 qualification appropriate for the care and development of children.

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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