

Super Camps at Queens College

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330670
Inspection date	04 April 2007
Inspector	Jacqueline Allen

Setting Address	Queens College, Trull Road, TAUNTON, Somerset, TA1 4QS
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Registered person	Super Camps Ltd
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Out of School care
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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?

Super Camps Limited multi-activity day camps registered in 2006 and is based at Queens College, Taunton. Children have use of some areas of the Senior, Junior and Nursery/Pre-prep block which comprises a main hall, dining area and classrooms. They also have use of the sports hall, swimming pool, tennis court, astro turf pitch and playing fields. Super Camps is registered to care for a maximum of 80 children aged four to eight years at any one time. There are currently 11 children under eight years on roll for the Easter holidays. Children up to 14 years also attend. The group is open from Monday to Friday 08:00 - 18:00, during the school holidays only. Children are cared for by qualified and experienced staff. The site manager is a qualified teacher who has responsibility for the day to day running of the activities and is supported by staff with sports based qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's minor accidents are appropriately recorded and treated, as one member of staff holds a current first aid certificate and the contents of first aid boxes are regularly replenished.

Although staff have not needed to record children's specific medication needs for this camp, effective systems are in place to ensure all necessary details are obtained and shared with parents, to meet children's needs.

Children are usually reminded to wash their hands before eating although this is not effectively monitored and many children do not use soap. Some children are left with wet hands as the hand dryers in the toilets do not work and staff have not made available paper towels for their use. Sometimes children sit on the floor when eating their lunch, putting their apples down on the carpet between eating, which is not hygienic. Children dispose of their snack and lunch remains which is disposed of in a large unlidded bin in the same room, which is not emptied daily.

Children have daily opportunities to partake in a range of physical activities, such as football, tag, swimming and parachute games to develop their gross motor skills. Children generally eat a balanced, nutritious diet which includes fruit and yoghurts as well as treats to keep up their energy levels. Children help themselves to drinks from their own sports bottles or from the jug provided for their use.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have adequate space for a range of activities, in designated areas, used by the camp around the school, such as the main hall, classrooms, swimming pool and outdoor areas. Children have access to a wide range of sports equipment and resources to enable them to fully partake in planned activities. They can access some art materials, a large four in a row resource and some sports equipment freely during break and lunch times.

Children are generally safe as each planned activity has safety aspects highlighted to ensure potential hazards are minimised. However, although staff do a daily premises check, some electrical sockets remain accessible to children. Also, the ongoing supervision of children between specific areas is not appropriately risk assessed to ensure effective procedures are constantly implemented, which puts children at some risk. Children's swimming sessions are effectively managed in the water as one member of staff is in the water and the other member of staff, who is also a trained lifeguard, remains on the side. In addition, children's competency is assessed before children are split into appropriate groups. Children are involved in regular fire drills and passwords are set up to ensure children are collected by authorised adults.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff are aware of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and the correct procedures to follow if they have concerns about children, in line with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are interested and motivated to join in with all planned activities enthusiastically. They are forming good relationships with their peers and with staff allocated to their group. Children enjoy the wide range of planned activities, such as dodge ball, swimming, art attack, drama, quiz, face painting and a treasure hunt. Children choose additional activities of their choice, when time allows, such as story telling or additional team games.

Children particularly enjoy swimming sessions which are planned to allow for their individual stage of development and are well supported by staff's interaction and encouragement. Children benefit from all activities being well planned so that staff have very clear guidelines of the particular skills to develop, which helps children stay focused and interested.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children partake in mixed gender team games which staff monitor to ensure all children have an equal chance to play. Children are frequently asked if they are warm enough throughout the outdoor sessions and more static players rotated so they don't get too cold. Children are generally treated fairly and with respect. However, when children forget their towel this is not acted upon promptly by staff and additional resources are not always remembered for children who are not swimming during the session, which does impact on children's care. Children have few opportunities to increase their awareness of diversity as planned activities and resources do not always reflect this.

Although there are currently no children attending with learning difficulties or disabilities, there are satisfactory procedures in place for parents to discuss their children's needs with a trained contact at Head Office when pre-booking. This information is then passed on to the site manager and relevant staff, to ensure children's needs are understood.

Children behave well and are familiar with daily routines. They are encouraged to cheer on their team mates and receive lots of praise and encouragement from staff, such as 'well done' and 'you've been playing so well', which increases children's self-esteem. Children listen attentively to staff's instructions and are making good relationships with them and their peers.

Children benefit from an effective partnership with parents as staff access relevant information on their children, which includes their competency in the water. For example, notice boards are used to inform parents of the planned activities for their children, along with contact numbers for Head Office and Ofsted. In addition, parent feedback forms are also available for parents to make their comments known about the care provided for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Effective recruitment procedures are performed at Head Office and evidence of staff's suitability is available on file. However, some weaknesses in the children's and staff's registration systems, hygiene and safety procedures and equal opportunities all have some impact on children's health, safety and care. Children benefit from the organisation of the daily routine which ensures a clear planned timetable of events with time spent inside and outdoors. Clear guidelines for planned activities also ensure sessions are well prepared with all relevant resources available for children's use.

Staff have a satisfactory knowledge of the National Standards and ensure that all regulatory records are in place and confidential. The registration certificate is displayed and staff are aware of the significant events and changes which necessitate notifying Ofsted.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- ensure suitable hand washing facilities are available and consistently used to help prevent cross contamination
- ensure daily registration systems for staff and children show accurate times of their arrival and departure
- review the risk assessment system to ensure children are suitably supervised at all times and ensure that electrical sockets are made safe or are inaccessible to children
- develop the overall play environment to positively encourage children's awareness of diversity and ensure everyday routines ensure children's individual needs are consistently recognised and met

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk