

King's Camps

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY337832
Inspection date	10 April 2007
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Registered person	The King's Foundation
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?

King's Camp is one of a large network of sports camps which operate throughout the United Kingdom. It is privately funded and has been registered since July 2006 to care for no more than 80 children from four years to under eight years at any one time. It offers a wide range of sporting activities as well as creative activities to children aged from four years to 14 years, during the school holidays.

It is situated within Hipperholme Grammar school in Halifax. It has the use of three indoor halls and a playing field. The times of opening are from 10.00 until 16.00 Monday to Friday during school holidays only. Xtra Time sessions extend the day from 08.15 until 17.45.

There are five members of staff employed. Of whom, one has qualified teacher status; a further four members of staff are working toward a teaching certificate. They are recognised by the British Activity Holiday Association as being suitably qualified.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because staff follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines, policies and procedures. For example, parents are told not to bring their children if they are ill. Children's health and dietary needs are met well. Staff work with parents to make sure all personal information is accurately recorded. For example, the application form includes allergies children may have as well as preferences and dislikes. Children enjoy their mid-morning snack and lunch. They have a good understanding of simple health and hygiene practices, such as why they need to wash their hands before eating. The hand washing policy is strictly implemented and children are constantly reminded when they forget.

The camps are focused toward sport activities. The children enjoy their ball type activity games. They take part in rounders, tennis, football, hockey and cricket. The children enthusiastically play running games and ring games. Staff are very proactive in promoting children's understanding of the benefits of healthy eating. For example, they hold regular healthy lifestyle days where children are rewarded for having the healthiest lunchbox. Children have independent access to drinking water in the activity room. They benefit from the commitment of all staff to promote their physical development and enjoyment of exercise through well-planned, exciting sports activities. For example, children participate in field sports and indoor football games. They are also provided with quiet periods for rest and relaxation. As a result, children's individual needs are met well and their interest is appropriately stimulated as they regularly take part in physical activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and welcoming indoor and outdoor environment. Parents or visitors wanting to access the premises after registration must use the bell to gain entry. Staff ensure children have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, during the morning the lead coach speaks to the children about the safety policy. She discusses the fire drill and tells them that there will be a practice during the scheme. All staff are familiar with the safety policy and they carry out checks to ensure the play area is safe. For example, comprehensive written daily risk assessments are made and the entrance is monitored as children arrive.

Children use the gymnasium for sports, they gather in this area for group sports games and are then separated into age appropriate groups. The play area is well organised and children assist in clearing away equipment after it has been used to prevent accidental injury.

The scheme have devised a system of individual collection codes for parents and carers. The code must be used before children can leave the scheme. Children understand the importance of their own personal safety and staff ensure that there are developmentally appropriate resources available so that they remain safe.

Children are protected and their well-being is enhanced because staff have a good understanding of child protection issues. All staff have undertaken basic training in child protection and are aware of the procedures to follow should the need arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are eager, enthusiastic to learn and show good levels of concentration. They are confident, independent learners who enjoy their time in the setting. They show a good level of awareness, are motivated and interested in what they do. Children are encouraged to make decisions, think for themselves and participate in a wide range of well-organised sport activities as well as an exciting, interesting range of creative activities. For example, children make posters for the attractive displays on being healthy.

Children's confidence, independence and self-assurance is fostered and promoted effectively through lots of encouragement, support, appropriate challenges and praise. They benefit from a well-organised environment that provides a well-balanced variety of creative material as well as exciting sports activities. Children are well behaved, they relate well to staff, each other and become involved in both teamwork and individual play.

The interaction between staff and children is excellent, ensuring trusting relationships are developed and that children are happy and settled.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are effectively cared for by staff that work with parents to meet children's individual needs and ensure they are fully included in the setting. Staff have experience in caring for children with disabilities and very good procedures are in place. Children generally gain good knowledge and understanding about the world around as there are positive images in posters and books.

Parents are given customer feedback cards at the end of each week. These are then used to improve the setting. Children receive a certificate at the end of camp to say what they have participated in; if they have done extremely well they receive a certificate of merit. The parents are invited to the final event to watch their children's presentations.

The procedure for behaviour management is discussed with the children. For example, children actively participate in a discussion regarding the bullying policy. As a result, they learn behaviour that is acceptable within the camp. Children are well behaved and work harmoniously with others. Children are awarded with special stars and given the status of superstar if they have the highest number of special stars at the end of the scheme.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The staff make good use of space and other resources so that children are well cared for. Adults provide good levels of support enabling all children to participate in the activities provided. The children are organised into small groups to enable staff to build appropriate relationships and get to know individual children well. As a result, group sizes and staff deployment contribute to children's good health, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting. However, some large group games instructions are made complicated and as a result, younger children do not understand the rules clearly enough and on occasion do not become fully involved.

Policies and procedures are effectively used to support the care of children. Staff are familiar with the policies and procedures of the setting. Children benefit from being cared for by a number of staff doing teacher training and the manager who is a qualified teacher. Although the teacher training qualifications do not meet the regulatory standards, they are accepted as being suitable by the British Activity Holiday Association who also inspect the setting.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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 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 that all children are supported and are given clear direction when taking part in large group activities, thus ensuring their needs are met effectively.

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