

Super Camps At Truro School Preparatory School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332971
Inspection date	12 April 2007
Inspector	Linda Janet Chauveau
Setting Address	Truro School Preparatory School, Highertown, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3QN
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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Super Camps is one of 43 multi-activity day camps for children, run by Super Camps Limited. It opened in 2006. The scheme operates from 6 rooms, in 3 school buildings, which form part of Truro Preparatory School, in Truro, Cornwall. A maximum of 80 children may attend the programme at any one time. The programme is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 for school holiday times only. All children share access to a large field area, secure enclosed playground area and swimming pool. Children come from a wide catchment area. The programme employs four staff. Half of the staff, including the manager, are qualified to degree level and/or hold teaching qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children keep healthy through regular exercise. They have plenty of fresh air on a regular basis, and keep fit by using the facilities on site and the extensive range of equipment provided by Super Camps Ltd. Children participate in activities such as swimming, football, basketball, archery and kwik cricket. All children are keen to participate and enjoy team games. Children

also have regular opportunities throughout the day to rest and relax, for example by looking at books or at story times.

Children bring in their own packed lunches, and, in order to encourage healthy eating, parents are asked to provide nutritious contents. In order to keep hydrated, children drink from their own water bottles and staff ensure that top ups are offered regularly throughout the day. The information provided by parents at registration ensures that children's individual dietary needs are met effectively. There are clear procedures in place for ensuring that staff are aware of children with specific food allergies and what to do in the event of an emergency, for example, an allergic reaction.

Children's health is supported by staff who follow sensible procedures to maintain standards of hygiene throughout the activity scheme. For example, they reduce the spread of infection by checking and cleaning toilets prior to children's arrival. Children are aware of routines to follow to develop good personal hygiene, for example, by asking permission to visit the toilet and washing their hands after use. Children's health is generally safeguarded by staff who maintain required record keeping systems for accidents and the administration of medication. However, staff do not ensure that accident records are always shared with parents. The information and required consents given by parents at registration enable staff to respond appropriately in an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure in an exciting and well-presented environment, where good monitoring procedures ensure that children are protected from unknown visitors. Staff have carefully organised the classrooms and sports facilities used by children. This allows them to move freely and safely between areas, with good supervision procedures in place to keep them safe. Children are able to access an extensive range of resources set out by staff. The stimulating range of sports activities and games are age-appropriate and well maintained.

Children are aware of safety issues that may arise whilst they attend the scheme. Staff remind children about personal safety when using outside play areas and, as a result, risks are minimised. When using the outside playing fields staff maintain ratios and are diligent in monitoring children to keep them safe. Children respond promptly to the emergency checking system, which is followed by staff during the day, and as a result, children's safety and security is effectively monitored on a regular basis. The manager carries out risk assessments of the areas used by the activity scheme before it starts and staff undertake regular daily checks, in order to minimise potential health and safety hazards.

The registered person has produced a comprehensive child protection procedure, which is designed to keep children safe from harm. All staff receive child protection training as part of their induction procedures and, as a result, they have a sound understanding of the procedures to follow and records to keep, if they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happy and eager to participate. They have good relationships with staff and are confident to speak openly to them. Children develop strong friendships, and are able to request friendship pairings to help them settle in. Timetables are displayed at the entrance area to let

children and parents know what is planned for each day. The multi activity scheme is split into daily programmes for the under and over eight's. Children are divided into age related groups called "crews"; during the introductory session, they listen attentively whilst the manager explains what activities are planned for each session and covers simple health and safety ground rules.

Key members of staff allocated to each crew support children effectively. Children concentrate well at chosen activities, for example, carefully designing templates to make animal facemasks, discussing with staff the individual characteristics of their chosen animal. They develop a sense of achievement as they complete their art and craft activities for example clay models, which are displayed in the reception area. Staff interact well with children, taking part in face painting activities or setting them challenges such as art projects or mastering driving skills on go-carts.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the company of staff and each other. Staff make good use of their individual knowledge of children gained from their previous attendance at the scheme. They work hard to ensure any new children are welcomed and included. This is reflected in their positive relationships with children and the respect shown to them by children. Staff respect children's thoughts and opinions, which develops children's confidence and self-esteem. Children are well behaved and have good manners; staff praise good behaviour and individual achievements with a variety of reward stickers and cards.

Children access few resources and play opportunities to promote a positive view of the wider world or increase their awareness of diversity. However, all children attending are treated with respect and equal concern and have access to all resources. The activity scheme would receive prior notice of a child due to attend with a learning difficulty and or disability and would react according to their specific needs to plan activities to help integrate and support them.

Relationships with parents are relaxed, friendly and supportive. They receive information about the scheme through a Super Camps brochure and registration forms cover all legally required documentation, which ensures that their children's individual needs are met. Information about the scheme's daily activities and operational procedures are displayed on the notice board. Video footage of activities that children have participated in is shown in the reception area. This helps keep parents up to date with what their children are doing at the scheme and acts as an introduction to new children. Staff talk to parents as they sign in and out which enables some exchanges of information to take place. Staff also request feedback from parents through an end of scheme questionnaire. Verbal feedback received from parents and children indicate that they are very happy with the scheme.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by staff who undergo sound induction training. This provides them with a clear understanding of the scheme's operational policies and procedures, and as a result, children's welfare is safeguarded. Most of the staff have had appropriate checks completed on them and the operational procedures give clear guidance regarding the position of persons who are not vetted not having unsupervised access to children. Staff files are held

at head office and, as a result, there is limited information on site regarding staff qualifications or the checks that have been made to assess their suitability.

Staff provide children with an effectively organised environment. The extensive range of activities available means that children are well stimulated throughout the day. Staff maintain required adult to child ratios and are deployed well. Children benefit from being cared for by staff that are suitably experienced. All staff members have a good understanding of children's needs. They work well as a team and are clear about their individual responsibilities. The required record keeping systems to safeguard children are in place and used effectively, apart from those used to record accidents, which are not always shared with parents. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of 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:

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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 the record of accidents is always countersigned by parents
- ensure that there is sufficient information provided on site to evidence staff suitability.

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