

Super Camps @ Heathfield School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY303316
Inspection date	06 August 2007
Inspector	Maria Therese Conroy
Setting Address	Heathfield School, Beaulieu Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 1NB
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets 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.

During the Summer school holidays on the day of inspection there were 47 children from three to eight years on roll. The numbers of children on roll varies from day to day.

The camp employs 12 staff of whom three are qualified and work with the children under eight years. Other staff are students at college or university.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are learning good hygiene practices as they are encouraged to use soap when washing hands before eating and after messy activities. Tables and floors are regularly wiped and cleaned to maintain a clean suitable environment for children to use. Children's health is promoted as there are suitable procedures in place for dealing with accidents and administration of medication. There are three staff that have a suitable first aid qualification, in addition a lifeguard is employed who is also first aid trained, as a result children are well protected.

Children are encouraged to eat healthily to ensure they have the energy for the physical activities they take part in. Parents provide the pack lunches and the camp promotes healthy eating by displaying written information on suggested lunch boxes giving ideas for children and parents to see. There are regularly breaks for children to have snacks and drinks throughout the day, during which staff encourage children to eat fruit and yoghurts and drink plenty.

Children have good opportunities to take part in physical exercise throughout the day. They have use of large open spaces in the playground and on the playing field. During wet weather, the gym and hall is used for group games and activities. Children enjoy taking part in swimming, dodge ball, mini tennis, music and movement and using the bouncy castle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The areas and the equipment used by the children are generally safe due to risk assessments being undertaken by the staff. However some of the equipment within those areas is not included for example the climbing frame within the nursery garden. In addition risk assessments are undertaken on more high risk activities for example, swimming, and quad biking. Children are encouraged to adhere to safety measures in place and protect themselves, for example staff question them about the safety rules prior to using each piece of equipment such as the bouncy castle.

Staff are vigilant in relation to security, therefore children are protected, the manager is always available to meet parents and sign children in and out and visitors are asked to sign the record sheet. The front door is kept locked throughout the day and regular head counts are carried out by staff.

Children's welfare is protected as the staff are familiar with the child protection procedures in place. Staff attend training in relation to child protection which is incorporated into their induction day. A written child protection procedure is in place, which is available to the parents, this ensures they are informed that the camp have a duty to protect children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children generally enjoy their time at camp, they are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities most of which are physical. Some of the younger children find it quiet tiring as it is such a busy day and they can become worn out towards the end of the day.

Children have the opportunity to be creative when they make models out of clay, they are encouraged by staff to think of their favourite animal and make a model of it. Staff show younger children how they can achieve this by talking it through with them. For example by asking them questions 'what sort of neck does a giraffe have?'. Children enjoy designing handprints on lolly sticks, they proudly show off their art work and go onto make their own individual masks to follow up.

Children's confidence is encouraged as they dance to music, some sway from side to side gently as others really get into it and spin on the floor. They concentrate as they take part in a music session using musical instruments; they listen carefully to the rhythm created by one of their friends and copy this while counting the number of beats.

During the day children take part in specific planned activities for example the bouncy castle, however when they are finished or completed the activity, there is not always alternative resources or activities to move onto, therefore children have to sit and wait until the next planned activity.

Staff interact well with all the children, they take part in the activities while encouraging all the children to have fun. They are particularly caring towards the younger children, which ensure they feel safe and secure. Children comment they like coming to camp to meet their friends, they enjoy face painting, swimming, quad biking and dodge ball.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff are made aware of children's individual needs including their dietary and medical needs through the registers they are given at the beginning of the week, this enables children to receive the individual care they need. Younger children are placed with the same staff where possible throughout the week, which ensures continuity of care, staff address children by their first name and get to know their group well. Although the children have access to all the activities relevant to their age group, there is limited activities and resources to promote children's awareness of the wider community.

Children generally behave well, they are encouraged to share, take turns and listen to staff. Staff praise children throughout the day, which promotes their self esteem, for example when they have produced a piece of art work. In addition children receive stickers to reward good behaviour.

The group work in partnership with parents. They meet and greet parents on arrival and departure, the manager ensures that parents are kept fully informed with any additional information, such as accident reports. Parents can easily access all the required paperwork, such as complaints procedure, policies and procedures and details of activity plans.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting is generally well organised, the manager has a good overview of what is going on throughout the camp during the day, this ensures that all staff particularly those working with the under eights are well supervised. All of the required documentation is in place and easily accessible. Policies and procedures are readily available to parents as is other relevant documentation such as the certificate of registration.

Staff undergo induction training, which enables them to become aware of their responsibilities and become familiar with the policies and procedures for the day to day practices.

Activity plans are developed by head office and are displayed for both parents and children to view on their arrival. However, there is flexibility with the staff on site to change them around to meet the needs of the children attending. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the camp were issued with three compliance notices and two actions following their inspection. All of the actions and the compliance notices have now been met. The compliance notices stated that at least half of all staff hold a level 2 qualification appropriate for the care and development of the children. During the inspection there were four staff including the manager who held a relevant child care qualification and a total of 47 children under eight present. The second compliance notice stated that the ratios are maintained at all times, during the day, the ratios were checked at various times and ratios were being met. The third compliance notice stated that the manager has a level three qualification that is appropriate to the post. The manager has a level 3 in Play work.

The first action stated that any person who has not been vetted is never left alone with the children. All but one member of staff has a CRB check in place and staff were clear that the member of staff concerned could not be allowed unsupervised access to the children. The second action stated a record of accidents must be maintained. Accidents are recorded and signed by parents, this is checked by the manager at the end of each day.

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):

- improve the activities and resources that promote positive images of diversity.
- undertake a risk assessment on the climbing frame in the nursery garden

- provide alternative resources/activities for children to take part in and use when they have completed the planned activity.

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