

# Ladymede School

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY234509
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Samantha Hunt
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<b>Registered person</b>	Super Camps Ltd
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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?

Camp Ladymede Holiday Play Scheme is one of a number of sites owned by Super Camps Limited. It was first registered in April 2002. It operates from Ladymede School in the rural village of Little Kimble, which is between the towns of Aylesbury and Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire. The play scheme has access to the ground floor of the school; this includes classrooms for art and craft activities, a large hall for drama and games, a lounge and the staffroom. Toilet facilities and a large kitchen are also available. There are three fully enclosed outside play areas for the children to use.

A maximum of 80 children under eight years may attend the play scheme at any one time. Children attend from the age of four years up to 13 years. The number of children on roll varies. The play club is open every weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 during the Easter and Summer school holidays. The club serves children mainly from the local community. There are 14 staff working in the setting. Five staff hold primary teaching qualifications and the remainder are on teacher training courses or are university students.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy lots of fresh air and exercise. Many activities are outdoor based and help children to develop and extend their physical skills well. Children confidently manoeuvre go-carts and roller racers around an obstacle course and practise catching and throwing skills with balls.

Children become aware of their own health and well-being. Staff actively encourage them to administer sun cream and take rest breaks in the shade whilst they wait their turn between activities. This helps to limit the risks of them getting sunburnt. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of the policies and procedures to follow if a child has an accident. Accidents are well documented and parents informed at the earliest opportunity. The first aid kit is easily accessible with first aiders carrying smaller kits with them when children are taking part in activities out on the field. This ensures they are able to deal with any accident children have at the earliest opportunity. However, staff do not always wear gloves when dealing with accidents to effectively promote good hygiene and minimize the risk of cross infection.

Lunch is a sociable affair with children sitting around chatting to one another and staff. Staff actively encourage children to eat their lunch and sufficient time is given to allow children to finish and relax before going back to activities. Staff supervise snack and lunch times well, encouraging children not to share food. Regular stops are made for drinks of water or squash this ensures children stay hydrated and healthy.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children become aware of their own safety. Staff set clear boundaries such as not leaving their groups without telling a member of staff and remind children not to run as they move between activities because they may hurt themselves. Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed throughout the building and practised every week. However, staff do not effectively evacuate children as they take the register before leaving the premises and not after.

Staff supervise children well, carry out daily checks before children arrive and have written risk assessments in place to identify and minimize risks to children's safety. However, gates onto the car park and drive way are not locked, therefore children could leave the premises unsupervised. Equipment is in good condition and is a mixture of sports, games, arts and crafts. Staff carry out regular checks of equipment and ensure it is safe and correctly set up before children access.

The manager and staff have a clear understanding of child protection. Documentation such as the child protection policy and local authority guidelines are easily accessible and support the staff in safeguarding children's safety and welfare in the setting.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled. They show an eagerness to take part in activities and relate well towards their peers, staff and visitors. Staff show enthusiasm and clearly like spending time with the children ensuring that they get the most from their day. Children show great

excitement as they line up to have a go at the aqua slide. They confidently run and slide on their tummies down the wet slippery matting. Other activities include bench ball and netball skills, obstacle courses, team games, bouncy castle and arts and crafts. There are regular opportunities for children to take breaks throughout the day. Children enjoy an opportunity to spend time after lunch playing catching games on the large field or sitting in the shade chatting with friends they have made.

Staff are effective at engaging all children in the activities, and provide them with an alternative choice if they appear to be losing interest. For example they provide a card game for children who no longer wish to play on the bouncy castle. Staff offer good support, praise and encouragement to children as they take part in activities, this helps to build their confidence and self-esteem. Staff plan and carry out a routine of sporting and art and craft activities for children throughout the day. The emphasis is on ensuring children have fun whilst learning some new skills.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children's behaviour is very good. They share, take turns and show good respect for one another and staff. For example listening well to instructions before commencing the obstacle course. Staff set children clear boundaries at the beginning of the day. This ensures they have clear expectations of what is expected of them. Children receive lots of positive verbal praise and encouragement from staff throughout the day. They form good relationships with their group leaders, who respond sensitively to their needs and requests.

The setting is committed to promoting inclusion for all. All children's individual needs are noted and shared with group leaders. This helps staff to support all children and enable them to take part effectively in the activities. Parents receive information about the camp both from head office and through easily accessible policies and procedures displayed at the setting. For example the complaints procedure and log is easily available for parents on the front desk. Staff greet children and parents in a friendly manner and make themselves available to parents at the beginning and end of the day. This gives parents the opportunity to find out how their child has been.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The manager demonstrates a good understanding of his role and responsibilities. He shows a good understanding of the National Standards and is committed to ensuring the children remain happy and well cared for. Effective recruitment procedures are in place to ensure staff are suitable to work with the children. Ratios are effectively maintained throughout the setting at all times. Staff undergo induction training within the organisation to familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures of the company. They also spend a day at the site to set up activities, familiarising themselves with the building and any safety issues before the camp commences. Staff work well together as a team to ensure children's health, safety and well-being is effectively promoted.

All legally required documentation is in place. There are clear procedures in place to record children's attendance. Parents are required to sign their children in and out of the setting and inform staff if someone different will be coming to pick up. Children are organised in small

groups with staff carrying registers around with them at all times. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the setting was asked to improve documentation that included developing and implementing procedures on the management of allegations made against members of staff, and specialist activities offered to children and to devise a special needs statement. In addition they had to ensure staff meet qualification requirements or detail how they would ensure they were achieved and put in place effective risk assessment procedures to identify dangers to children both inside and out. They were also required to obtain written permission from parents to administer first aid, seek emergency medical treatment and make all policies and procedures available to parents.

Documentation has been updated to include how allegations against a member of staff would be dealt with. The manager has a clear understanding of the procedures to follow should he have to deal with this situation. There is clear documentation in place to guide staff in carrying out all activities with the children. Staff only carry out specialised activities if they have the relevant training.

The company has clear recruitment procedures in place to ensure they meet the minimum qualification requirements. Many staff working with children have both qualifications and experience of working in holiday play schemes. A detailed written risk assessment is now in place that identifies most areas of danger both inside and out. Staff are expected to read and sign the risk assessment and highlight any risks they may come across with the manager. In addition, the manager and staff carry out daily checks of the setting to ensure it is safe for children to access before they arrive.

Written permission is obtained from all parents to administer first aid and seek emergency medical treatment. All policies and procedures are clearly visible to parents, as they are displayed in the entrance area when they arrive to drop their children off.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- improve hygiene procedures when dealing with accidents
- evaluate fire evacuation procedures to ensure children are evacuated from premises as quickly and safely as possible
- ensure premises and outside play areas are secure and children are not able to leave them unsupervised.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)