



Super Camps LTD

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY287509
Inspection date	17 August 2005
Inspector	Jan Leo
Setting Address	Radley College, Radley, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 2HR
Telephone number	01235 77179
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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?

Camp Radley opened in 2004 and is one of a chain of 28 provisions run by Super Camps Ltd who operate throughout south and central England. It is registered to accept up to 80 children from 4 to under 8 years. Children attend for a variety of sessions and numbers vary from day to day. Camp Radley is based at Radley College in the village of Radley near Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

The playscheme opens 5 days a week during the school summer holidays. Sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00. Children have use of two classrooms, gymnasium, sports hall and swimming pool as well as the extensive outdoor area.

Sufficient staff to meet the required ratio's of 1:8 work with the children. At least half the staff have appropriate qualifications and experience in the fields of child care and education or sports.

The provision accepts children with special needs and those with English as an additional language.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing a basic understanding of good health because staff generally promote hand washing before eating, remind children to drink plenty of fluids when they have been active, and give advice about protection from the sun and the application of sunscreen. Children have limited snacks to sustain them until lunchtime when they eat their packed lunches together as a large group. Children can ask for additional drinks when they are thirsty. Staff follow sound accident and medication procedures to ensure children receive appropriate treatment if injured or unwell, but there is no comfortable area where they can rest and recover. Children benefit from frequent opportunities to take part in sport and team games to develop their strength and fitness both indoor and out. Staff encourage them to join in all the activities which include football to develop controlled movements, bouncy castle to increase stamina, and swimming for developing strength and confidence. Some participate willingly while others need coaxing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have ample space to move around freely, without collision, during activities and staff sometimes limit participation to safe numbers to avoid injury. Children use a suitable range of equipment, which staff normally check for safety each time it is used. Staff carry out risk assessments routinely and review practice regularly to preserve children's wellbeing and ensure procedures are still effective. They have clear activity cards, which highlight good practice and safety rules, but they do not consistently follow these to stop children swinging on goal posts and somersaulting off the bouncy castle. Supervision is inconsistent. Most children learn where they can roam, but new children are sometimes unfamiliar with the invisible boundary and wander too far, unseen by staff. Staff have a sound knowledge of child protection issues and understand the need for prompt action if they have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make positive relationships and play sociably together in small groups. All children have opportunities to participate in a suitable range of activities, mostly

requiring an interest in active play and some benefiting from an element of team spirit. Some children enthusiastically join in all the activities but others prefer to opt out and watch from the sidelines. Staff aim to involve all children and join in with the games to help and encourage those who are reluctant. Children who opt out can colour or chat with a friend, but staff do not plan alternatives to keep children actively involved. Staff use their particular skills and interests to lead activities and rely on verbal discussion with other staff to set up and operate parts of the timetable. This results in children having to wait around for lengthy periods and impacts on behaviour. Most children are developing confidence in the water when swimming, and are steadily developing their social skills. They show interest in other people, readily talk about their home life and, in the main, are well settled.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children form a diverse group and staff show all equal concern. Children are encouraged to mix and participate fully in the activity programme, which staff hope will appeal to everyone. Children with special needs receive some additional support to help them join in but parents or carers have to provide any one-to-one support if necessary. Staff hold information on children's individual requirements to ensure they are cared for appropriately and a quick reference guide is handy as a reminder to staff. Staff work well together and aim to provide a consistent approach to behaviour management, but rules are not consistently applied. Staff give children regular instructions on how to behave but do not give full explanations to help them understand the need for rules. Children know what is expected but purposely ignore the rules when waiting for their turn or after losing interest in the games. Staff build sound relationships with parents and carers and supply sufficient information for them to know how the group operates. Some of the information is only available on request and some on the notice board is difficult to see.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Staff go through a thorough recruitment and induction programme to ensure they have the right qualities to work with children. Management and senior staff monitor practice to check continued effectiveness, and identify and address any staffing issues. Children and staff form secure relationships to ease settling in, and children have some choice as to what they do. Staff offer a varied programme but planning is weak. They re-organise groups as necessary to ensure there are enough children for the different activities and team games but only one activity operates at a time, which does not capture the interest of all children present. Staff keep children's information in secure folders to maintain confidentiality. They have all the paperwork, required by regulation, in place but some lacks detail and is not easily available to parents and carers.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 supervision to ensure children comply with rules and follow good practice to stay safe
- review the activity programme to ensure it continually provides a range of activities to suit all children and avoids lengthy waiting periods
- include contact details in the complaints and child protection policies, and make all policies and practices easily available to parents and carers.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk