

# The Alexander Sports Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY342923
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 August 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Parker
<b>Setting Address</b>	Alexander Sport Centre, Sidney Road, BEDFORD, MK40 2BQ
<b>Telephone number</b>	07782 375 090
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Sport Support Services 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kids Size Holiday Multi Activity Club was first registered in 2007 and operates from The Alexander Sports Centre in Bedford. The group has access to a main hall, toilets and two sports fields. A maximum of 32 children aged under eight years may attend the group at any one time. Older children between the ages of eight years and 12 years also attend the group. The group is open each school holiday excluding Christmas. They open from Monday to Friday from 08.30 to 16.30. There are currently 150 children on roll who have attended during the summer holidays.

Children attend from a local catchment area. The group supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities and also supports a number of children who speak English as a second language, although none were present at the time of the inspection.

The group employs 15 staff at this venue, and have a number of bank staff to call on should they be needed. The number of staff per session is dictated by the numbers and ages of the children attending each session.

The group receives support from the local authority.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is adequately promoted as the group ensures that a minimum of two members of staff on duty, hold a valid first aid certificate and a suitably stocked first aid kit is available, which will ensure that children who have accidents are treated efficiently and effectively. Children who are unwell or on medication will benefit from the sound practice, policies and procedures.

Children's knowledge and understanding of being healthy is promoted through healthy eating guidelines for the packed lunches. However, children were not asked or reminded to wash their hands before eating their lunch. The children's dietary needs are met as the group provides parents with a menu planner and will also discuss any individual requirements with parents and keeps a record of these, ensuring that any special diets are observed.

The whole ethos of the group is teaching children physical skills, team work and sports. This actively promotes children's opportunities to develop their body skills and explore a wide range of physical movements.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a range of craft activities, sports equipment, suitable child-sized furniture and resources which promote a welcoming atmosphere for children.

Children's safety is adequately promoted as the staff have an awareness of possible risks and take steps to minimise these. For example, staff ensure that the ratios of adults to children meet the minimum requirements. Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe as the staff discuss and practise fire safety and evacuation procedures with them. Children are supervised at all times and accompanied in the hall and on the sports field.

Children's welfare is suitably protected as the staff have an understanding of child protection procedures and have the required contact telephone numbers and documentation in place.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled within this environment, where they are given a choice of fun and developmentally-appropriate toys and activities. The main ethos of this group is to enable the children to learn the basic skills associated with various sports. This develops into learning the rules and developing the physical skills, hand to eye coordination and team building. They have a regular choice of equipment which engages their interest and promotes their creative development.

They communicate well with each other and the staff. They are confident in asking for help when needed. Children are offered a variety of activities which help promote their development. Equipment suitable for children of all ages is available for the children to choose from. This effectively promotes the positive development of the children's independence.

Children are happy and relate well to the other children. The staff encourage and build on children's confidence, skills and vocabulary through praise and recognition of achievements. They have regular team building events which ensure that their social skills are developing positively.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are respected as individuals and the staff ensure that they are aware of their individual needs and backgrounds. All children are given equal access in all aspects of the play activities and sports.

There are a sound selection of written policies and procedures in place which underpins the satisfactory care provided for the children. The children's behaviour is good. They are praised for kind deeds, achievements and good behaviour. The staff set consistent boundaries so that the children know what is expected of them. They are encouraged, by the adults, to show respect for each other and people and the equipment.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. The children's individual needs are confidentially documented and met. The staff ensure that information on activities are effectively shared with parents and carers each day.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the childcare is satisfactory. The staff hold relevant qualifications which enable them to provide fun, and well-balanced activities for the children. Staff efficiently organise their time, resources and equipment which enables children to have regular access to a good range of suitable activities. The individual needs of children are met as the staff ensure that all necessary information about the children is recorded and shared confidentially. The children's overall welfare is promoted as all of the required documentation is in place.

The staff have an understanding of their role regarding the National Standards and associated regulations. They have ensured that they have provided and shared policies and procedures in place which underpin the organisation of the childcare.

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**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain certain 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):

- ensure that good hygiene practices are promoted. This refers to encouraging the children to wash their hands before eating.

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)