

Camp Energy Harpenden

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 123627

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Inspector Jill Nugent

Setting Address Rothamsted Park, HARPENDEN, Hertfordshire, AL5 2HU

Telephone number 01582 767722

E-mail

Registered person Leisure Connection Ltd.

Type of inspection Childcare

Type of care Full day care, Out of School care, Crèche

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 Energy is a holiday playscheme and operates from Harpenden Sports Centre, Harpenden. It is managed by Leisure Connection Limited. Children have access to a sports hall, dance studio, swimming pool and outdoor park.

The playscheme is open from 09:00 until 17:00 during the school summer holidays. A maximum of 96 children between the ages of five and eight years may attend the playscheme at any one time. Children attend on a daily and weekly basis throughout the summer holiday.

The playscheme supervisor is suitably qualified.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted adequately as all necessary medical procedures are in place. In the event of an accident children receive appropriate care as the centre is well-equipped for administering first aid. However, staff do not carry first aid equipment with them when organising

activities outdoors. Consequently, in the event of an emergency occurring whilst outdoors children may suffer a delay in receiving treatment.

Children bring a packed lunch, and snacks, which they enjoy eating together in the company of staff. Parents are made aware of the need to avoid dairy products as the centre has no means of refrigerating food. Children with food allergies benefit from the centre's no-nut policy. All staff are aware of children's individual dietary needs. They are attentive to hygiene, ensuring that all leftovers are cleared away. Children are aware of the need to wash their hands before eating. They have access to drinks whilst in the centre, so that they avoid the risk of dehydration, although staff do not take drinking water with them when organising activities outdoors.

Children have good opportunities to take part in a wide range of sports and games. As a result, they are able to maintain high levels of fitness and also develop new skills. They particularly enjoy taking part in group games outdoors and exploring small equipment in the sports hall. Staff explain and demonstrate clearly to children so that they gain self-confidence and learn techniques. Consequently, children have an increasing awareness of a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have plenty of space, both indoors and outdoors, in which to enjoy the organised activities. Staff ensure that the sports centre is safe and secure for children. Visitors to the centre are monitored at the front desk and regular risk assessments are carried out in the building. Sports equipment is checked for safety every week. Staff take regular walkabouts during the day to check health and safety within the centre. Playscheme staff make a visual check of any areas of the park intended for use during the day. Therefore, children keep safe and secure in their care.

Children practise an emergency evacuation plan so that they know what to do in the event of an emergency at the centre. When taking part in outdoor activities they wear lightweight yellow jackets so that they are immediately recognisable as members of the playscheme. Staff always supervise children closely and carry out regular headcounts to ensure all group members are present. Children learn to keep themselves safe because staff remind them about safe play.

Staff have a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of safeguarding procedures. They are all aware of the procedures in place regarding accompanying children to the toilet and changing for swimming. The supervisor and centre manager have attended training in safeguarding and know what to do if there are any concerns regarding child protection. The centre has the necessary information to enable staff to seek advice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled at the playscheme and very much enjoy the range of activities on offer. These include swimming, ball games, trampoline, arts and crafts. Activities are rotated throughout the day so that children have variety and are able to make choices for themselves within their groups. They have much fun and develop close relationships with staff, responding with enthusiasm to suggestions for different activities. Staff support and interact with children to maintain their interest and help them learn new skills. They boost children's self-esteem by praising them for their achievements.

The day is planned around a given timetable and activities are integrated so that there is a mix of sports, games and quiet play. Children enjoy the many opportunities during the day to take part in physical activities, and also table-top activities and floor play. They like to draw, and colour, or use craft materials to make their own creations, for example, paper plate puppets. Others like to do puzzles, play imaginatively with small figures or look at books. Afterwards they enjoy the provision of an energetic activity such as the bouncy castle or parachute games. By mixing activities in this way staff cater for children's differing needs and interests very effectively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel valued and included in the setting. They are organised into small groups which helps them to develop a sense of belonging. Staff ensure that all children are included in the activities or, if choosing to opt out, are engaged in an activity that interests them. Children are encouraged to be aware of diversity and respect others. Staff have appropriate procedures in place for supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children are very well behaved and a quiet, busy atmosphere prevails in the centre. A code of conduct is on display so that all children can be made aware of the rules. Children learn to work together in teams as they take part in organised games. Any incidents regarding behaviour are dealt with in an appropriate manner and parents are notified. As a result, children learn to behave responsibly and make a positive contribution to the setting.

Staff work closely with parents and carers. There is information about the playscheme's policies and procedures on display for parents. They complete registration forms for all children, providing emergency contact details and information about children's individual needs. The contact details for the regulatory body, Ofsted, are made available should any parents wish to raise a concern about their children's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The playscheme's policies and procedures work well in practice to promote the outcomes for children. All the necessary written policies are in place. There are sound employment and induction procedures for new staff. The supervisor deploys his staff effectively. He meets with them every morning and keeps a check on them during the day so as to ensure children are well cared for and happy. All attendance registers are well maintained.

Staff show a high regard for the well-being of all children. They are friendly and attentive towards children, working together closely as a team and offering appropriate care whilst organising a range of interesting activities. They are aware of their individual responsibilities and this contributes to the smooth day-to-day running of the playscheme. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the playscheme staff were asked to develop their procedures regarding risk assessments of the setting. Adequate risk assessments are now carried out regularly so as to minimise any potential risks to children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- ensure that staff have access to first aid equipment, and that children have access to drinking water, during outdoor activities.

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