

King's Camps

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY337919
Inspection date	11 August 2008
Inspector	Sue Anslow
Setting Address	Sandbach School Foundation, Crewe Road, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 3NS
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Registered person	The King's Foundation
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

King's Camps at Sandbach School is one of 44 multi activity holiday playschemes run by King's Foundation Ltd, a not for profit Christian education charity. It opened in 2006 and operates from spacious indoor and outdoor facilities within the grounds of Sandbach School, Crewe Rd, Sandbach. A maximum of 80 children may attend the club at any one time. The playscheme is open each weekday for three weeks during the summer holidays, from 08.15 to 17.45.

There are currently 132 children aged between four and 14 years on roll. The playscheme supports children with learning difficulties. The playscheme employs seven members of staff, ranging from qualified teachers and sports coaches to students studying sports science. One member of the staff team is a qualified swimming coach.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted and protected quite well. They spend the day doing lots of physical games and activities which contributes to their physical development and promotes a healthy

lifestyle. Children are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet but are not always encouraged to wash their hands before eating, which compromises good health care. Sun hats and sun cream are used during hot weather and children have access to drinks of water from the school drinking fountains. Accidents and illnesses are managed well by staff who liaise closely with parents as required. There are two staff members that currently hold first aid certificates, and incidents are recorded appropriately. Children can rest at any time if they wish and three breaks are built into the daily programme, so children can have something to eat and drink. Children learn about healthy lifestyles through 'focus days' when staff talk about how bodies work and how people benefit from fresh air and exercise.

Children are well nourished throughout the day with food and drinks brought from home. Parents are advised about healthy eating and are encouraged to use ice packs as food cannot be stored in a fridge. Water fountains are available around the school grounds for children to help themselves whenever they want, ensuring they never get dehydrated. Any particular dietary requirements are respected, through consultation with parents, and staff record appropriately. Focus days on healthy eating help children understand about how food helps the body stay fit.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe and secure by staff who are vigilant and supervise them closely. Parents sign children in and out of the club and older children must have written permission from their parents to walk home on their own. Children enjoy ample space to play various activities within the school building and its extensive grounds. There are two staff members that normally accompany each group as they move around between the different activities, and sufficient supervision is always provided at the side of the pool when children are in the water. Safe and well maintained sports equipment is supplied for the activities and staff make sure children use it correctly and safely. For example, the staff ensure children do not wield the hockey sticks above their heads.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through regular routines and reminders, such as not running around the dining hall and waiting until they sit down to drink their glass of water. Children walk in two's between the buildings, using alternative routes where areas are cordoned off due to maintenance work. Risk assessments of the premises, equipment and activities are carried out by staff before the playscheme starts and updated as required. Fire extinguishers are checked and evacuation procedures are practised by the children at the beginning of every week. Parents share information about their child's ability in the water and this is also checked by the swimming coach, the first time children use the pool. Children's welfare is protected by staff who are familiar with child protection issues and procedures. A written policy informs parents of the group's responsibility to safeguard children and any incident is discussed and recorded appropriately.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time spent at the Kings Camps Playscheme and join in all the activities with tremendous enthusiasm. They are divided into three groups according to age and take it in turns to participate in a wide variety of games and activities during the day. Sports, such as tennis, football, lacrosse, hockey and basketball are adapted to suit the different

ages and children learn skills, such as ball control and hand eye coordination, as well as team work and cooperation. Swimming is a favourite activity and each child goes in the water every day. They have great fun practising different strokes and playing a form of water polo.

Different themes run throughout each week of the playscheme, for example, the Olympics or the Circus. During the week children enthusiastically practise games and skills in connection with the theme and put on a show for their parents on Friday afternoons. They learn juggling, acrobatics and 'tightrope' walking and make clown masks and fancy hats in the craft sessions. Staff are highly skilled at encouraging children to try new skills and rewarding them with praise and congratulations when they achieve the slightest improvement. Relationships with staff are close, warm and enthusiastic. Continual observation of the children's interests, abilities and moods ensure staff create the optimum environment for the children to relax and have fun. The stimulating activities provide challenge and healthy competition enabling all the children in their group to fully participate, learn something new and make lots of friends.

Each child is assigned to a 'house' at the beginning of the day and can gain house points during the week for such things as joining in, helping a friend, winning a game or making a superb effort. This friendly competition between the children gives a tremendous sense of achievement and boosts their self-esteem and self-confidence. They are so excited to gain points for their house and make sure staff write it up on the board before they forget. A 'camper of the day' is chosen at the end of every day, ending with 'camper of the week' on a Friday, the ultimate prize.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met very well by staff who observe children closely and discuss any concerns with parents. Siblings are not forced to separate into different age groups if they do not want to and anyone nervous of trying new activities, such as swimming or lacrosse, are gently encouraged to 'give it a go'. All children are welcome to attend as many sessions as they wish and encouraged to participate in all activities. Children are treated with equal concern and attention by staff and children with learning difficulties are welcomed. Children learn something of the world around them through activities, discussions and quizzes. They thoroughly enjoy the Olympic games activities and decorate the sports hall with flags from different countries.

Children behave extremely well as they move around the building, enjoying the full range of activities. Team games and competitions help children to work cooperatively together, sharing and taking turns. They are eager to gain points for their 'house' through their efforts, achievements and helpfulness. Children are thrilled if they are named camper of the day and have the chance of winning the decorated baseball cap at the end of the week. Lots of praise and encouragement from staff results in a tremendous boost to children's self-esteem and self-confidence. Good communication with parents ensures staff are familiar with the children's routines and requirements. Each family is greeted at the door and information is exchanged at the beginning and end of each day. Parents receive a handbook outlining the club's aims and objectives alongside brief policies and procedures. Notices and relevant certificates are displayed and parents are asked to complete a questionnaire at the end of the week, with any comments or suggestions. Parents are invited to attend the last afternoon session every Friday to enjoy a 'show' put on by the children in connection with skills they have learnt during the week, for example, Olympic games or circus skills.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective recruitment and checking procedures by the Kings Foundation company ensure children are cared for by experienced committed staff. Induction training and good teamwork promote the smooth running of the playscheme, where staff value each child's uniqueness and aim to promote their physical and social development.

Children feel at ease and relaxed in this lively, active, enjoyable environment. The organisation of each day enables children to experience a wide variety of games and sporting activities, promoting their self-esteem and self-confidence. They play together in groups and teams, learning to take turns and rely on each other and above all, have fun. Children's health, safety and achievements are promoted and managed well through comprehensive policies and adequate record keeping. Children's attendance is recorded correctly, although staff do not always sign themselves in and out each day, which compromises safety procedures in an emergency.

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

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 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):

- ensure children wash their hands before eating
- ensure all staff complete the daily register of attendance.

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