

# Camp Energy

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY357711

**Inspection date** 28 July 2008

**Inspector** Jan Leo

**Setting Address** Summer Fields School, Mayfield Road, OXFORD, OX2 7EN

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**Registered person** Barry Henry Grinham T/A Camp Energy

**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](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?

Camp Energy registered on the Summer Fields School site in 2007. It is one of two settings run by a private company. Children have access to eight classrooms, three halls, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a golf course and extensive playing fields. The school is situated in Summertown on the outskirts of Oxford.

The group opens Monday to Friday during school holidays, from 08.00 until 18.00. It is registered to accept a maximum of 32 children under the age of eight years at each session and children over the age of eight years also attend. Numbers vary each day but some sessions are full. Children attend on a full time, part time, regular and occasional basis. The setting currently accepts a small number of children who speak English as a second language.

There are 10 members of staff working with the children and all have either childcare or coaching qualifications. The registered provider works alongside the staff for the majority of the time.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

The children follow a daily plan designed to encourage a healthy lifestyle. They participate in active play to develop their physical skills, benefit from fresh air, and learn to protect themselves from harmful rays during very sunny weather. As a result, the children move well in a number of ways showing a high degree of coordination. Staff remind children to drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration after exercise, and they assist children in applying sun cream at regular intervals. Most children bring a sun hat from home, but the staff provide a small number of hats for children who forget. The children spend their time in clean surroundings and watch staff wipe the tables to remove dirt and germs before snack and meal times. The staff check the standard of hygiene around the site both morning and afternoons, but fail to update the record of health and hygiene checks as defined in the policy. Children wash their hands at regular intervals to prevent the spread of infection and staff oversee hand washing to make sure it is effective. The setting always has a first aider on site and there are several first aid boxes to cover activities in different areas. Some of the dressings are outdated and may no longer be sterile, compromising the healing process. Children bring their own refreshments to last the entire day and staff prevent children from sharing food in case of allergies. Some children extend their session unexpectedly or arrive without lunch, in which case the staff provide a balanced, high energy lunchbox to sustain them until they get home.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are safe because the staff focus on their job and supervise well despite fluctuating ratios. The staff are all very competent and ensure they know the whereabouts of all the children in their group. However, at times, group sizes exceed the minimum adult to child ratio, resulting in one adult supervising a large group of children alone for short periods. The current staff manage these situations well because of their skill in maintaining control of the children. The children use various areas of the vast grounds for different activities. The staff complete risk assessments to remove or reduce hazards and they escort the children around the site to protect them from unchecked adults. The provider is aware of the need to supervise adults who stay to settle their children but he finds it difficult to prevent brief lapses in supervision. Staff review the plan each day to improve safety by, for example, moving activities indoors when excessive heat threatens children's continued good health. The children learn to listen closely to instructions so that they know how to behave during the more hazardous activities, such as swimming. Staff remind them to touch the wall when walking in the pool area in order to keep away from the water, and not to run along the poolside in case they slip over. The staff have a sound knowledge of child protection issues and understand their responsibility to safeguard children from harm. They have a policy on file as a reminder of the referral process in case they have concerns about a child, but this is out of date and does not reflect recent changes in terminology. The procedure to follow in the event of parents making allegations against staff is retained separately and not included in the safeguarding policy to inform everyone of the provider's action in such cases.

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

The provision is good.

All children follow a varied day including a balance of active, creative and sedate activities to ensure there is something to interest everyone. They start the day with outdoor games and time to run about during adult led activities. The staff encourage children to join in and make new friends, keeping the children occupied when they arrive, to help them settle. A rest period follows while children take a drink, and staff offer colouring to extend the break and give children time to cool down. Some children opt out of the activity saying they don't like colouring but staff offer no alternative. Play resumes after a short break, with some enjoying parachute games whilst others swim. The staff rotate the groups to give everyone an opportunity to try all the activities and they monitor participation to keep play fair. For example, they ensure afternoon swimmers get a change to bat first in cricket so they complete their turn before going to the pool. They also make sure every child who wants to bowl can try their hand at bowling the opposition out. Staff make sure young children have the time they need to hit the ball, bowling more and more balls until they achieve success. The staff praise, encourage and cheer to spur the children on and help build their confidence. The provider makes use of staff's skills and resources from outside agencies to broaden the opportunities for the children. As a result, they try dance and drama, craft and sensory activities as well as a wide range of sporting challenges and team games. The staff work hard to make the day fun, joining in to encourage participation and help children learn what to do. As a result, most children rapidly become settled and thoroughly enjoy their day.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

All children can contribute to the day by suggesting activities and helping create the play scheme rules. This helps them feel valued and included. The children have equal access to the activities, with staff varying the challenges to suit individual ability. For example, non swimmers can use a buoyancy aid and younger children use a wide bat for cricket. Some of the children speak English as a second language and have limited communication, but there are no formal procedures for aiding inclusion. However, the staff work hard to break down barriers by using gestures, eye contact, and basic Spanish or French to help children know what to do. The staff willingly accept children with special needs, providing they have adequate information and the skills to provide an appropriate and enjoyable programme of activities. They strive to set achievable goals for all children to raise their self-esteem. Most children get on very well together, considering the variable attendance and mix of ages. Some children know no-one while others attend with siblings or friends from school. The staff try to place children into an appropriate group but this is sometimes a little slow, causing young children to feel insecure. Some parents and carers value the setting highly and report that their children take pleasure in attending. Others, whilst not unhappy with the way the setting operates, would like information about the play scheme to be more easily available. The provider currently includes information on the internet for parents to access before their children start, and offers a leaflet and photographic display on site to provide more information when adults drop off and collect their children. There is a policy folder for adults to see on request but some policies are due for renewal and are not fully up to date. The numbers arriving to deliver children at the start of the day make it difficult for the staff and provider to build firm bonds with all parents and communication is compromised. For example, a telephone number given to a parent to check on her son part way through the day was not one which is constantly manned and as a result, her enquiries failed, going straight to an answer phone.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The children benefit from a varied and interesting day which staff organise at a sensible pace to keep children focused without pressure. The staff keep a supply of spare clothing and equipment, such as towels, swimming trunks, and sunhats to ensure all children can participate fully and learn new skills. The staff promote health and safety as a matter of routine to prepare children for later life, and the children know what staff expect. The day to day running of the group operates smoothly because the staff work well together as a team and are dedicated to providing a fun packed day for the children. However, the provider does not always stay within maximum numbers and deploy staff effectively to maintain ratios in all areas. The impact of this on the children is minimal because there are additional staff on site to help out when needed and the provider uses only a small part of the space available to him. Furthermore, the current staff group are dedicated and capable; retaining complete control at all times to preserve harmony. Though some of the staff are highly qualified, those identified as being in charge of the children do not always hold a relevant qualification to the required level. All of the documentation, required by regulation, is in place but some of the policies are not fully up to date.

## **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 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):

- manage attendance to stay within overall numbers and deploy staff more effectively to maintain the adult to child ratios in all areas
- prepare and implement an action plan to ensure all adults in day to day charge of the children meet the qualification requirements.

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)