

# Camp Adventure at Kennet Leisure Centre

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY357866  
**Inspection date** 14 April 2008  
**Inspector** Jenny Scarlett

**Setting Address** Stoney Lane, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 4LJ

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**Registered person** Parkwood Leisure

**Type of inspection** Childcare

**Type of care** Full day 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](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?

The Kennet Leisure Centre Children's Activities has been registered since 2007. It operates from the Kennet Leisure Centre building adjacent to the Kennet School in the town of Thatcham in West Berkshire. It is one of several leisure centres run by Parkwood Leisure. The children's activities have access to the Play House Crèche room, swimming pool, sports hall and large lobby. A large outdoor area is available for the Camp Adventure activities.

The centre serves a wide geographical area. There are currently 50 children aged under five years on role in the crèche and 97 children aged five to eight years on roll in Camp Adventure. Children attend a variety of sessions a week. The children's activities supports children with special needs. There are no children attending who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche opens five days a week all year round with the exception of Christmas and bank holidays. Sessions are from 09:00 to 13:00. Camp Adventure opens five days a week during school holidays. Sessions are from 08:30 to 17:30.

There are fourteen staff members are employed to work with the children; seven of these have Early Years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3 and three staff members are currently working

towards a recognised early years qualification. Half of all staff have completed the Playwork Induction Standard.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children attending the Camp Adventure holiday facilities' receive good opportunities for physical activities. Staff take into account individual children, sizes of the group and their abilities and individual needs when planning team games. Children learn to manoeuvre balls using their hands or feet when they play football and volley ball. They enjoy developing these skills and playing against each other in teams. Children improve their hand and eye coordination playing soft ball tennis. Children enjoy playing large circle games such as 'duck, duck, goose'. Therefore, children are learning the importance of regular exercise while having fun.

A high proportion of staff members are qualified in first aid. In addition some staff are qualified in the administration of EpiPen and using a defibrillator, which means parents feel safe that staff at Camp Adventure can meet the needs of children with specific medical requirements. Accident records are appropriately maintained and remain confidential.

Children attending the Crèche and Camp Adventure benefit from accessing regular drinking water throughout the session. They are fully aware of the need to drink plenty of water after physical exercise. Parents are asked to provide children with a lunch box and snacks. Snack and lunch times are a sociable occasion for the children and they enjoy this time in the seated reception area of the centre. However, whilst this is used as a time for the children to 'recharge their batteries' there is little in the way of resources to encourage the children to sit quietly and 'rest'. Written information about what is best to add to the lunch boxes is provided for parents. Staff promote the ethos of healthy eating and as a result, children are not allowed to access the vending machines.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children attending Camp Adventure are kept safe as staff monitor and supervise their movements from one area to another. However, in the event of an emergency staff have to rely on the use of their own mobile phones which cannot always be heard in areas such as the sports hall or swimming pool with the acoustics. All areas and every activity is well documented for risk assessments. When accessing the swimming pool children wear coloured wrist bands so that they can be easily recognised. In addition Camp Adventure staff join in the pool activities. They are able access to some of the centre's other resources, for example, the floats, balls and 'woggles' and water inflatable equipment. Children attending the Crèche have a designated room which can only be accessed via a security coded door. As a result, children are protected from other users in the leisure centre. Regular checks are taken to ensure all children are present and parents sign their children's attendance on and off the premises. Fire safety precautions are in place and fire equipment checked annually. However, while the children are able to articulate what to do and where to go if they need to evacuate the building, this has not been practised.

Children attending Camp Adventure have good access to areas for activities such as the sports hall dance studio and swimming pool. They enjoy a range of physical team games and free play

activities such as colouring, construction and board games. Children attending the Crèche have access to flexible activities to meet the number and ages of the children attending.

Staff have an understanding of child protection issues and know what procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure children's welfare is promoted and new staff are made aware of these through the induction process.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff plan activities prior to Camp Adventure opening. They take into account the ages of the children due to attend. The daily routine incorporates a range of physical and creative activities. Planning is flexible to allow children some choice and an element of free choice is incorporated into the daily programme. This empowers children to take part although not always permitted, for example, one of the children made a request to bring his 'Nintendo' to Camp Adventure so that he 'could play it all day if he wanted'. The play leader gave valid reasons why this could not happen. Some of the older children need coaxing to participate in some of the activities as they state they 'would rather play football or swim all day and want permanent free choice in activities'. Most of the older children take part in song writing and performing and those that do participate do so with enthusiasm. Children particularly enjoy the swim session in the pool. Some learn basic skills such as floating and developing swimming techniques, the more confident enjoy ball games. The under eights take part in a Volley ball match with girls competing against the boys. There was lots of cheering as each side scored trying to out win the other.

Children attending the Crèche enjoy free play activities. Activities and resources are planned and prepared for using the Birth to three matters pack and staff are flexible to accommodate the ages and individual needs of the children attending. Children climb and slide down the portable slide and learn pencil control as they colour and draw with staff. They wave and communicate with the 'cleaning lady' at the window and demonstrate that they are familiar with the adults in the setting.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are made welcome and their differences are recognised. Staff encourage the children so they can maximise the experiences and enjoyment of the activities on offer. Staff offer support for children with disabilities and adapt activities to include them in the setting. Suitable arrangements are made to meet their care needs, for example, the need for additional staff in order to provide one-to-one care. Children's individual needs are recorded on the registration forms prior to them starting at the setting and this helps staff ensure they are able to meet these. Children are developing a positive outlook on the wider world and access some resources which depict positive images of diversity. This helps them have a sense of belonging and understanding about differences.

Children attending Camp Adventure generally have a good time although some of the older children's negative attitude towards some activities is particularly challenging for staff. However, with a lot of coaxing they are encouraged to participate and actually quite enjoy the activity such as song writing and performing. Children are given warnings if they misbehave and staff use 'the stars and strike' system to encourage positive behaviour. Children receive stars for good behaviour and a strike means the star is taken away. The reward is a goody bag at the

end of the day or week depending how long the child is booked into the setting for. This helps children to learn right from wrong. Children have written their own rules to follow after a group discussion and all children have signed up to them. As a result, children are being involved in the holiday club and taking responsibility for their actions.

Partnership with parents and carers is adequate. They receive general information about the setting and activities that are on offer and receive a newsletter / information sheet when booking their children into the Camp Adventure Holiday Club. Parents are kept up to date via a discussion with staff at the beginning and end of the session or via the parents' notice board. However, parents and their children are not asked for their comments or asked to make suggestions to enable staff to reflect and improve practice.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most documentation and policies are in place, stored securely and made available for inspection. However the documentation, policies and procedures for the Camp Adventure and the Crèche are not cohesive. The staff understand their roles and responsibilities and generally work well as a team, as a result, the day runs relatively smoothly for the children. Adult to child ratios are maintained and time, space and resources are organised to meet the children's needs. Children's attendance is well managed to ensure ratios are maintained. Regulatory information is completed prior to the children starting and these are stored securely and confidentially. However, the registered person has not informed Ofsted of an occasion when the Crèche leader was absent which meant there was no qualified person in charge to run the Crèche. This affects the smooth running of the setting and puts children at risk. The certificate of registration and the public liability insurance is displayed during operational hours which ensures parents are aware of the requirements of registration. The provision meets the needs of the range of 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 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):

- provide additional resources for the quieter activities that take place at the beginning and end of the day and at lunch times
- ensure that fire drills are carried out and provide portable communication systems for staff to use on site
- implement questionnaires for parents and children to evaluate what is going well during the holiday activities
- notify Ofsted of significant events.

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)