



## The Active Zone & Junior Active Zone

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	161988
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 August 2005
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<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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Active Zone holiday play scheme has been open since 2001. It is organised by Kennet District Council and held at Tidworth Leisure Centre, Tidworth, Wiltshire. The scheme mainly serves the local area. Children can use the outside grounds and facilities of the centre.

The play scheme is registered to care for 40 children from the age of 5 to 8 years, currently there are 306 children aged between 5 and 13 on roll.

The play scheme is open every weekday from 08.30 to 16.00 during the school

summer holidays.

There are six members of experienced staff working with the children, one of whom holds relevant childcare qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

While at the holiday play scheme children enjoy a wide range of physical activities, of which swimming is their favourite. They can swim every day if they wish, take part in team and ball games or use the outside play equipment and spacious grounds.

Children have good access to regular drinks so they do not become thirsty. They bring their own packed lunches and snacks, or use the centre café, but the menu choices offered are not very nutritious and do not encourage children to learn about healthy eating.

Children stay healthy because staff follow most current and appropriate health and hygiene practises, but children's lunch boxes are stored in a warm room with no access to appropriate cold storage. Children have some opportunities to rest after physical activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment which is suitable for the purpose of the scheme. The sports centre is well maintained, modern and clean. It is safe, secure and risk assessed. Children use safe and suitable equipment. Staff ensure all appropriate safety routines are followed, for example, there is always a number of trained first-aiders on duty. When children are swimming, staff ensure that good adult:child ratios are used, and that children wear suitable swimming aids. Staff go into the pool with the children to make sure they are well supervised.

Children benefit from the staff's good use of the required policies and procedures. Any medications given to children, or any accidents that should occur are well recorded.

Children are protected because the staff understand their role in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures in place when necessary.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children attending the play scheme learn new skills and are offered appropriate challenge. They enjoy the activities provided, but have limited choice in what they do

as they mostly follow the daily planned activities for their group. The activities offered, which include swimming, sports, team games and some craft activities are appropriate for the ages of the children attending. Children benefit from the experienced staff's suitable planning. They take part in interesting craft activities based on a weekly theme, these include topics such as 'superheroes' and pirates.

Children interact well with the adults in the setting and with each other, they take turns, share and co-operate. They enthusiastically cheer each other on in team games.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting including those that have special needs. Staff quickly get to know the children and endeavour to meet their individual needs. They engage the children's interest and try to offer activities that individual children can enjoy.

Children feel a sense of belonging. They help set the rules and boundaries for their behaviour, and as a group decide the penalties for unwanted behaviour. Children behave well as they are keen to achieve 'stars' and receive rewards.

Children are well cared for as the setting works well with parents. There is a notice board that informs parents of all the settings policies and procedures. They understand that the scheme is mostly sports based when they choose the provision. There is a good information booklet for parents, although it was out of print at the time of this inspection.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. The adult:child ratio positively supports the children's care and play. All staff are suitably vetted, they are vigilant about ensuring unvetted adults do not have unsupervised contact with children.

All the required policies and procedures that ensure the good organisation of the setting and the children's wellbeing are in place. Children's attendance is suitably recorded.

Most staff are experienced in providing holiday activities for children, and they all attend a good induction programme, which includes child protection training. Many have worked on the scheme for a number of years, but hardly any have recognised early years care or playwork qualifications.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the playscheme was asked to allocated a key person to children who is responsible for children's wellbeing on a daily basis. Although the setting does not yet operate a key worker scheme, they group children carefully and tries to ensure that the same adult works with the same group of children whenever possible.

Since the last inspection the range of toys and resources provided for the children has improved. However, the resources are still mainly sports based. There are suitable resources for craft activities and some games for the children to use at quieter times.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- consider how the required staff qualifications criteria will be met
- provide children with more opportunities to choose their own activities within the daily programme
- explore ways of helping children to learn about healthy eating

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)