

# The Mill

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique reference number**

EY379405

**Inspection date**

22/02/2011

**Inspector**

Judith Reed

**Setting address**

The Mill, Mill Lane, Forest Green, DORKING, Surrey, RH5 5SJ

**Telephone number**

01306 621452

**Email**

**Type of setting**

Childcare on non-domestic premises

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## Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

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## Description of the setting

Adventure and Computer Holidays Ltd is a privately owned company which has been established since 1983. The company offers activity day camps for children during all school holidays and this is one of several operating sites. The camp operates from The Mill in Forest Green, near Dorking, Surrey. Most children are collected by minibus from pre-arranged points in London. The camp opens on weekdays during school holidays from 9:30am to 4.30pm. The site is not suitable for all children as the toilets are up some steps and outside stairs.

The activity day camp is registered on the Early Years Register. A maximum of 40 children aged under eight years, may attend at any one time, with no more than 15 in the early years age range.. There are currently two children in the early years age group. Care is also offered to children aged over five to 14 years. The activity day camp is registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

During the inspection three members of staff worked with the children. The company is a member of the British Activity Holiday Association.

## The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into this activity day camp and a key person is available to support children in the early years age group. Equality and diversity are suitably promoted as the staff ensure they find out about the children's individual needs from their parents. A self-evaluation is completed and staff find this process valuable. Staff are aware their knowledge and skills are weak in some areas and access training to ensure continuous development of the provision.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that all staff are aware of how to take the necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare). 24/04/2011

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- enhance and develop staff knowledge of safeguarding policies and procedures

- improve detail recorded in the register and include all necessary information.

## **The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision**

A safeguarding policy and procedure is in place to protect the children, however staff knowledge is not up to date. Whilst there is a policy which states the procedures to take if staff have concerns over a child, not all staff are fully aware of these steps and therefore, children are at risk as staff may not follow the correct procedures to safeguard their welfare. Documentation regarding safeguarding children is displayed on notice boards and within folders. Thorough risk assessments are in place for the venue, all outings and activities. Staff have a sound understanding about how to keep children safe whilst out and about. All necessary checks are completed on the staff and appropriate recruitment procedures are followed. Parents complete documentation to ensure staff are aware of children's dietary requirements, allergies and individual needs. Staff talk to parents and carers when children are picked up and returned to their collection points in London. The present registration system shows times of arrival and departure from the venue and planned collection and drop off times. However, these are not altered to include precise times when they are different due to unforeseen circumstances, such as traffic delays. The staff build a suitable relationship with parents and carers when the children are collected and picked up from various venues in London. Several families return year after year. The necessary forms are completed prior to children coming to the holiday care scheme. Staff obtain written permission to administer medication and seek advice or emergency treatment. Parents sometimes telephone to enquire how their children are getting on and staff are able to confirm that they are doing well. Parental feedback after the activity day camps is mostly positive.

Children move around the site to access activities. They gather in the dining room to discuss the activities planned for the day and make choices about what they wish to do. Staff explain their plans to enable children to make their choices. Some children leave the site in a mini bus to go horse riding. A member of staff accompanies the children on these trips. Other children choose either computer work and learning about the 'Paint' program, or exploring the woodland to find signs of animals. One member of staff accompanies each group. A well equipped play room is also available for children to play pool, table tennis and table hockey, or a range of boxed games. A spacious outside area is available for children to play and make camps. Staff are well aware of children's individual needs and ensure all activities are available to all children. An equal opportunities policy is place.

Staff take part in the self-evaluation process and discussed this with their early years advisor. Management are aware that some improvements are required and strive for ongoing development through training.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children**

Children are settled and happy at the activity day camp. They get to know each other quickly, although some are already friends from school. Key workers are in place and they support the individual needs of the children in the early years are range. Brief daily notes are made about the activities enjoyed and relevant information about behaviour issues. This helps staff to plan interesting activities for later in the week and extend children's learning. Children develop habits and behaviour appropriate to good learners, their own needs and those of others through listening to instructions and receiving good support from staff. Their communication skills are well supported as they ask for help and understand instructions given. They begin to understand the technical language used when operating computers. Children learn about the world around them when exploring the woodland around the building. They search for signs of animals and compare these to reference sheets to ascertain what animals have been around the area. Children's physical development is promoted and they develop a healthy lifestyle through exploring outside areas, horse riding, and games in play room and outside.

Children feel safe as staff are vigilant regarding their supervision. The children are divided into small groups for activities around the site. Children learn to behave in ways that are safe for themselves as they mainly follow instructions and are familiar with the facilities available. Staff ensure children follow appropriate hygiene procedures and take them to wash their hands before having food. Children are asked to use the soap when washing their hands and hot air dryers are available. A choice of snack including fruit, raisins and biscuits are offered alongside drinks of squash or water. Lunches are individually prepared according to the wishes of the children. A choice of brown or white bread is available for their sandwiches. Fillings include ham, cheese, tuna, lettuce, tomato or cucumber slices, and sweet corn. Children are also offered crisps, raisins and fruit. Sometimes staff prepare hot food such as pasta and sauce. Children learn to dispose of their rubbish in the appropriate recycling or compost bins. All staff present are trained in first aid and carry first aid kits as they move around the outside areas. Accidents are recorded appropriately and a copy of the accident form is given to parents and carers.

Children have a positive attitude towards learning and participation. They quickly get to know the group and join in with their friends. Children are encouraged to have a go at activities and to be independent. Staff encourage them and tell children they are doing well. When children ask how to play pool staff suggest they should remember what they did yesterday. They also explain about taking turns while showing them how to hold the cue. Children develop a range of skills for the future when using the computer and listening to instructions. They apply their communication skills when asking for help and are well supported by the staff.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*  
*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*  
*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*  
*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

<b>How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	3

### The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3

### The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

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### Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

<b>Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage</b>	3
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3
The extent to which children feel safe	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3

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## **Annex B: the Childcare Register**

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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