

# Camp Energy Harpenden

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	123627
<b>Inspection date</b>	19/08/2011
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<b>Type of setting</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic

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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.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

## Description of the setting

Camp Energy Harpenden was registered in 2002 and operated by Leisure Connection Ltd. It is a holiday playscheme and operates from Harpenden Sports Centre. Children have access to a sports hall, dance studio, swimming pool and outdoor park.

The playscheme is registered on the Early Years Register and both parts of the Childcare Register to provide a maximum of 96 places for children aged from five years to under eight years. There are currently 178 children from five years to 12 years on roll, of whom seven are in the early years age group. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The playscheme is open from 9am until 5pm during the school summer holidays, with an early drop-off facility from 8.30am to 9am and late pick-up from 5pm until 5.30pm. Children attend on a daily and weekly basis throughout the summer holiday.

## The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is inadequate.

Poor organisation impacts negatively upon the quality of the overall provision, limiting the effectiveness of measures to safeguard the welfare of children. There are several breaches of specific legal requirements. Camp Energy provides an active environment for children during the school holidays. However, staff do not have an adequate understanding of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage so children's individual needs are not adequately met. Staff have not completed any mandatory training and no effective policies, procedures or documentation are in place to support children's care. Management demonstrates poor capacity to improve because they do not monitor the service, therefore no areas for improvement have been identified or implemented since the last inspection.

Overall, the early years provision requires immediate action. Ofsted will take enforcement measures to ensure children's safety and compliance with the welfare, learning and development requirements or will cancel registration.

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

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- To be agreed with CIE following case conference 02/09/2011

Ofsted will take enforcement measures to ensure children's safety and compliance with the welfare, learning and development requirements or may take action to prosecute or cancel your registration.

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

Records, policies and procedures are not adequately organised or maintained to ensure the safe and efficient management of the playscheme. Attendance record sheets do not clearly show accurate numbers of children present at any one time and potentially compromise children's safety in an emergency situation. Staff do not have access to current policies and procedures to support children's welfare, because they are stored in the duty manager's office. Staff refer to an operational manual which is out of date and poorly organised. Therefore, they are unaware of some documentation, such as a form to administer medication. Children are not protected from harm or neglect as staff have very limited understanding of safeguarding issues and no effective training. Staff do not understand the safeguarding procedures and do not know what to do in the event of an allegation being made against another member of staff. Records of the unique reference numbers of Criminal Records Bureau Disclosures obtained are incomplete for some adults working with the children. Children are not safeguarded because children's personal details are inadequately recorded. There is no effective key person system in place. All these omissions are breaches of the welfare requirements.

Children are not fully protected in the event of an accident or illness because staff working directly with the children have not completed first aid training. A duty manager from the leisure centre is always on call to deal with incidents requiring first aid. However, when children are participating in activities in the park, some delay in assistance is inevitable. Accident recording is very muddled and staff cannot demonstrate that parents are suitably informed of every accident. Children receive care in an environment that is generally safe because staff follow health and safety practices in place for the leisure centre. Children wear high visibility jackets when outside in the park and staff keep in touch with one another via personal radio intercom. However, staff on the reception desk grant admittance to the premises without checking the identity of visitors. Emergency evacuation procedures are practised, but a consistent system for recording these is not in place. For example, playscheme records show the most recent drill to have taken place in July last year, whereas one drill has been conducted this year.

Enthusiastic and caring students are employed to work with the children. However, staff qualification requirements are not met. The manager holds a full and relevant Level 3 qualification in Playwork but children's overall care is inadequate because staff have no knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They have not completed an effective induction training course. The management of the playscheme has been split between two members of staff, with one person in charge for three weeks and a different person in charge for the next three weeks. This situation further complicates the poor organisational systems of the service. Playscheme organisers do not provide parents with all legally required information about the service. For example, children are not protected because parents are not informed about the procedures for making a complaint to Ofsted. Parents confirm that they have not received any information about the service and up to date information is not available on the playscheme reception desk in the main sports

hall. Children do not benefit from continuity of care because there are no links with other providers who share care of the children at other times of the year.

Playscheme practice is inclusive and all children can participate fully in the activities. The childminder has suitable resources in place which the children have access to. However, some of the younger children are observed to be unsure and on the fringe of group activities and staff are not always aware of their needs. Children have not benefited from any improvements to the service since the last inspection. Senior managers are having too little impact in raising the quality of provision. They have not implemented effective self-evaluation to identify apparent weaknesses in the organisational systems and to take suitable action to drive continuous improvement.

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

Children are cared for in accordance with their parent's wishes and play happily with other children. The staff are welcoming in their approach to the children and they provide an appropriate range of enjoyable, recreational activities during the day. For example, children enjoy playing on the fixed playground equipment in the park, have daily swim sessions in the leisure centre pool and expend their surplus energies on the bouncy castle in the main sports hall. Art and craft activities are planned and group and team games, such as rounders, crazy races and football are offered. Older children confirm that they are enjoying themselves but some of the younger children appear quiet and reserved within the boisterous and active environment. Staff are not always aware of the ages and needs of individual children because there is no effective key person system in place and booking forms do not contain accurate information about children's ages and interests.

Children are grouped according to age and those in the Early Years Foundation Stage are placed in the five to seven year group. The children play harmoniously together. They share resources fairly and show consideration for others by being polite and learning to take turns. Some consideration is given to the suitability of activities. For example, staff explain that younger children are not permitted to play 'Dodge Ball' or 'Bench Ball' due to safety considerations. However, activities are organised to make use of the available facilities on a timetabled, group basis and do not allow for individual choice or preference. Therefore, planning is not effectively supporting individual children in their learning and development. This does not provide appropriate challenge for all children and is not covering all areas of learning. Children make inadequate progress towards the early learning goals because staff are not aware of their individual learning needs out of school hours. They do not observe and assess their progress and do not use observations to inform future planning and identify next steps in learning for each child.

Parents supply snacks and packed lunch, and staff do their best to ensure that children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day. Children gain some awareness of potential dangers and how to stay safe because safety is discussed. Staff's management of children's behaviour is good with prompt and

appropriate intervention when disputes are reported by the children or observed by 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>	4
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	4

### 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>	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	4
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	4
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	4
The effectiveness of safeguarding	4
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	4
The effectiveness of partnerships	4
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	4

### 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>	4
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	4
The extent to which children feel safe	4
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	4
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	4
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	4

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

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

Not Met  
(enforcement)

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

Not Met  
(enforcement)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.