

Super Camps at St Margaret's Prep School



St. Margarets Preparatory School, Gosfield Hall Park, Gosfield, HALSTEAD, Essex, CO9 1SE

Inspection date 29 July 2015
 Previous inspection date 29 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The provider does not ensure that there is at least one person present at all times who holds a current paediatric first-aid certificate.
- Processes for monitoring the operation of the provision are weak. This has contributed to the failure to address staff's training needs with regard to the first-aid qualifications.
- Children are not provided with sufficient opportunities to enhance their awareness of other people's abilities, cultures and differences.

It has the following strengths

- Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the activity camp. They enthusiastically participate in an exciting range of freely chosen and adult-led activities.
- Children settle well at the activity camp. They form caring relationships with the manager and staff and readily go to them for support and reassurance.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff provide parents with a verbal account of their child's day, as well as sharing their activity camp passport.
- Staff use their secure safeguarding knowledge to recognise concerns about children's welfare and understand the company's policies for dealing with these.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure that at least one person who holds a current paediatric first-aid certificate is on-site and available at all times when children are present.

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- improve management's monitoring to ensure that all staff's training needs are reviewed and identified before the beginning of each activity camp
- enhance children's growing awareness of differences in society, valuing and respecting the needs, abilities and cultures of others.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure that at least one person who is caring for children has an appropriate first-aid qualification (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the areas of the school used for the activity camp and the outdoor areas.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, the manager of early years and other staff. She spoke to children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at records, which included children's registration forms, accident and medication logs, written policies, written risk assessments, the daily attendance register and a selection of other relevant documentation.
- The inspector saw evidence of the checks used to assess the suitability of all staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents shared through parental feedback questionnaires.

Inspector

Lynn Hughes

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Children thoroughly enjoy their activity camp experience. They have good opportunities to feed ideas and suggestions into the planning for the following week. Children are appropriately challenged as many of the activities provided stretch their prior skills and abilities. For example, children learn how to negotiate a type of small sit-on cart, which is operated by turning the steering bars from one side to another. Children excitedly cheer their other team members on during these 'roller races' and take pleasure in celebrating each other's success. The well-qualified staff use their teaching expertise to enhance children's experiences and to provide them with challenging activities, particularly promoting their physical development. However, children's awareness of their individual uniqueness, similarities and differences is not so well considered. Children have few experiences during the camp to enhance their awareness of diversity in society.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Children generally settle well at the activity camp and form close relationships with the adults. New children are well supported by caring staff. The lack of a member of staff with current first-aid qualifications means that the provision's arrangements for contributing to children's well-being are not assured. Children behave well as staff positively reinforce the safety rules. They spend time each morning discussing these, so that children who attend on different days hear the same messages. As a result, children are very knowledgeable about how to use equipment and how to remain safe. The manager of the early years provision acts as the key person for all of the children in this age group. She uses the clear written information provided by parents to develop knowledge of each child's needs and interests. She liaises well with parents at the end of each day, sharing the child's activity camp passport with them.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The activity camp has addressed all previous actions and the recommendation to improve the quality of the provision. Management systems for monitoring the training and qualifications of staff are not robust. As a result, it was not identified until the inspection that the first-aid certificate of the only identified first aider has expired. However, all of the staff have first-aid experience from previous training and demonstrate some retained knowledge of how to deal with injuries. Therefore, the impact of this oversight on children is minimal. Management have acted swiftly to rectify the situation, so that the camp will meet the requirements for first aid for the rest of this holiday. The activity camp conducts an induction with each new member of staff when they commence working. This provides them with appropriate training to assess risks and safely manage the range of activities and equipment provided for the camp.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY391974
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	992056
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 14
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Super Camps Ltd
Date of previous inspection	29 July 2010
Telephone number	01235 832 222

Super Camps at St Margaret's Prep School was registered in 2009. The activity camp employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, all four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including two staff who have Qualified Teacher Status. The activity camp opens from Monday to Friday for three weeks during the summer holiday. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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