

Pied Piper Activities

Ardingly College, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6SQ



Inspection date

3 August 2015

Previous inspection date

24 July 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff have high expectations for children to take responsibility for their own safety and behaviour. They discuss the rules at the start of the day and children eagerly contribute to ideas for safety, such as not sharing packed lunches in case of allergies.
- Children enjoy a really well planned and varied selection of activities, many of which focus on developing children's good physical skills.
- Younger children receive good support as they spend the whole week with the same member of staff. This enables them to get to know each other very well.
- Management ensures the staff team is well qualified and skilled in meeting the needs of the children. Many of them are teachers or student teachers, so know exactly how to engage the children. Effective staff supervision provides ongoing support for staff, so they continue to promote children's enjoyment and individual needs.
- The environment and facilities are well suited for a children's holiday camp. There are sports areas, woods and grounds, as well as school buildings. Staff make good use of all areas to develop children's interests and enjoy their holidays safely.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Younger children can choose not to join in with activities, such as the bouncy castle or obstacle course. However, staff do not provide any other resources to occupy and engage the children during these times.
- Staff do not always ensure that younger children can engage in calmer sessions, such as arts and crafts and stories, without interruptions. Other groups of children sometimes go in and out of these rooms as part of their fun activities, such as looking for hidden objects, which distracts the younger children's play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide alternative play options for younger children who do not wish to participate in the planned activities
- reduce interruptions of quiet activities, so children can play undisturbed.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the swimming pool, playground and indoor rooms.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation of a swimming session with the registered provider.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents during the day.
- The inspector sampled documentation, such as staff suitability checks and policies.

Inspector

Jill Steer

Inspection findings

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

Children have great fun in the activity club. They enjoy getting involved with activities that staff often link to a weekly theme, such as 'safari'. Children busied themselves making snake mobiles and coloured large snake pictures. Many activities are outdoors or active, such as swimming, where staff provide children with close support. Staff ensure children move around the site, spending time in each activity area, giving them a great variety of experiences. Children run and climb around the playhouse, imagining they are lions. They jump and climb on a large bouncy castle, using plenty of energy. Children have many opportunities to make decisions and staff offer them choices within each session. Children also enjoy calmer activities, such as listening attentively to staff effectively reading stories. Staff discuss the book and ask children to predict the storyline. They respond encouragingly to children's questions, meaning children become confident to speak in groups. Staff work well with parents to share information about meeting children's needs.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children spend their week in the same group, which enables them to make strong friendships with similar aged children. Throughout the day, the whole camp comes together so children of all ages mix, and brothers and sisters get together. Many activities take place outdoors, meaning children benefit from the fresh air. The focus on being active through many sports-based activities encourages children to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. They all bring their own food for lunch and snacks, and the camp offers parents advice on providing healthy options. Staff prioritise children's safety and explain the rules clearly to children at the beginning of the week. They practise what to do in case of a fire and learn about sun safety with a catchphrase 'slip, slap, slop' referring to sun hats, sun cream and drinking. This helps children to take responsibility for their own and others' safety.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The management team is constantly reflecting on practice. It actively seeks parents' views and responds to suggestions for improvements. Every day, staff get together to discuss what went well so they can adapt practices the following day, if needed. The camp leader oversees the planning and makes sure staff know what they are doing each day so they are ready to give children positive experiences. There is a thorough staff recruitment programme, induction programme and training day so all new staff know what is expected of them. Therefore, they have a good understanding of the policies and procedures, especially for safeguarding children, to keep them safe from harm. The staff team is well established, enjoying the summer experience as much as the children, so it is a really happy and fun place for children to spend their holidays.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113646
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	993933
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	Pied Piper Activities Ltd
Date of previous inspection	24 July 2012
Telephone number	07940 623814

Pied Piper Activities is one of seven privately run activity camps and registered in 1997. It operates from Ardingly College in Haywards Heath, West Sussex. It is open each weekday from 8.30am to 5.45pm during the summer holidays. There are 14 members of staff, 12 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications to at least National Vocational Qualification level 2. Several are qualified teachers, including the manager.

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