

Super Camps @ St Francis' College

St. Francis' College, Broadway, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY, Hertfordshire, SG6 3PJ



Inspection date

5 April 2016

Previous inspection date

20 August 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff complete observations of the younger children's play. They share the findings with parents and, where possible, with the children's teachers, contributing to children's ongoing progression towards the early learning goals.
- Children are very well behaved and demonstrate impeccable manners. Children of all ages share, take turns and play cooperatively.
- Parents are complimentary about the care their children receive and the friendly atmosphere. They are well informed of the range of daily activities. They feel their children are safe at the camp.
- Children benefit from regularly being active outdoors and from snacks and activities that effectively promote their good health and support a healthy lifestyle. At the daily welcome meeting, the manager talks to children about healthy foods and the need to drink water throughout the day.
- The leadership and management team shows a strong commitment to continually improving their practice. There are effective systems in place for the managers to reflect on and evaluate the views of all staff, parents and children at the end of each camp that takes place.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, not all staff have a thorough understanding of each child's interests and needs in order to support them in the best possible way.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make more effective use of the good information that parents provide in order to best support children's well-being and enjoyment at the camp.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play in a variety of rooms indoors and in the outside area.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, policies and procedures and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding policy.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager, and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector conducted observations of the activities and evaluated the teaching methods with the staff.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector took into account the written views of parents and the camp's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are knowledgeable about how to protect children and the course of action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. There is a wide range of procedures and policies to support children's safety and well-being that staff implement well. The management and staff team effectively monitor and evaluate the quality of the provision. They provide questionnaires for children and parents to share their opinions and views. The management team implements robust vetting procedures to ensure that children are cared for by suitable adults. Staff have effective and regular supervision meetings which enable them to continually improve their already good practice. They regularly undertake training courses to update their knowledge and understanding. They meet with staff from other camps within the company to gain ideas and to learn from each other.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children have fun and enjoy their time at the camp. Staff provide interesting activities that complement the skills and knowledge that children develop at school. Children choose to write and draw at every opportunity. They demonstrate good skills as they make pictures with precise detail. Older children enjoy working in teams to complete challenges. They confidently discuss their ideas as they make outfits from recycled materials. They work together very well, showing respect for each other. Staff communicate well with children. They ask a range of questions to encourage children to think and solve their own problems. Staff use daily routines, such as preparing for snack, as learning opportunities. For example, they discuss numbers as they look at how many children are ready and how many they are waiting for. Staff observe children's enjoyment and learning throughout the day. They record this information in children's individual 'camp passports'. These are shared with parents each week. The older children have opportunities to self-reflect on their day and record their thoughts on cards to take home. These are also used to give children and parents ideas for enjoyable activities that they could continue at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff establish strong relationships with children and their families from the outset. They collect detailed information from parents when children start to attend. However, on occasions, staff do not have access to this information. Consequently, they do not always have a thorough understanding of individual children's interests and needs. Children settle quickly into the camp and they swiftly build friendships. Children are highly independent and helpful. They all engage in tidying away toys before moving on to the next activity. They find and manage their own belongings. Children are very aware of safety as they move between rooms and they remind each other to walk through to the outdoor space. Staff provide many opportunities for children to be outdoors. Children benefit from physical challenges, such as climbing on the adventure playground equipment and taking part in team games.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY443066
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	992075
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	4 - 13
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	Super Camps Ltd
Date of previous inspection	20 August 2012
Telephone number	01235832222

Super Camps @ St Francis' College was registered in 2012. The camp employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold Qualified Teacher status and one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The camp opens from Monday to Friday for one week during the Easter holidays and for four weeks during the summer holidays, from 8am until 6pm.

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