

Ultimate Activity Camps at Holy Cross Preparatory School



Holy Cross Preparatory School, George Road, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 7NU

Inspection date	7 April 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The managers accurately monitor and assess staff practice and the quality of the provision. They observe the quality of teaching closely to help staff consistently improve and provide excellent opportunities that engage children very well.
- All staff receive excellent and comprehensive initial and ongoing in-house training. The managers monitor staff training highly effectively. This ensures staff are extremely skilled in how they plan for and provide activities that help children to learn new skills and participate safely.
- Staff expertly extend children's development and enjoyment through enjoyable games. For instance, children read a familiar story and then pretended to go on a bear hunt. Staff participated enthusiastically. They skilfully questioned the children to extend their engagement, resulting in children who focused and engaged extremely well.
- Highly skilful staff encourage children's excellent behaviour. Children have very strong listening skills, and staff engage them highly effectively during daily discussions about the 'special rules', exploring how they feel and what they expect from others. Children are vigilant and walk quietly as they move safely between activities.
- Staff promote children's well-being exceptionally well. They only see children during the holidays and have developed excellent methods, such as discussing their visual timetable, to help them to settle and to develop children's confidence and independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already excellent partnership with parents by making additional information about the setting available to them on site.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children playing indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to parents about the setting.
- The inspector spoke to staff about safeguarding and the support they receive from the management team.
- The inspector and provider discussed self-evaluation and the provider's role in leading and managing the setting.
- The inspector reviewed a sample of documentation.

Inspector

Genevieve Mackenzie

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The managers strive for excellence and place a strong emphasis on extending children's experiences. Safeguarding is effective. The managers and staff have an excellent knowledge of child protection issues to help to keep children safe. The managers have very strong communication links with parents to support children extremely well. They provide a website, email, posters and booking information for parents. They recognise the benefit of strengthening this further by making information available at the club for parents to take home with them, should they wish. The managers' self-evaluation is highly reflective and drives rapid improvement. For example, they meticulously evaluate practice, and include the views of parents and children to set improvement goals that will have the best impact on children's experiences.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are highly skilled in helping to extend children's language. For example, they use words such as 'adventurous', and define these words to increase children's vocabulary exceptionally well. Staff expertly plan activities that focus children extremely well and have very high expectations of them. For example, they participate in outdoor activities, asking children to explore the grounds in search of five different items to create an individual work of art. Children build on the skills they learn at school extremely well to count and write. Staff discuss the possibilities of children's individual creations with them. They talk about textures and the variety of items the children find, helping children to develop understanding and their imaginations. Children excitedly create 'rockets' and pictures of 'me surfing on a board' with their collected items and other art materials.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff's knowledge of keeping children safe is excellent and they skilfully invent enjoyable ways to help children learn about safety. For example, they ask children to 'make friends with the rail' to help them remember to hold onto the rail and walk safely up and down the stairs. Developing children's physical well-being is a strong focus. Many of the children's activities strengthen and develop their physical skills and coordination. The managers and staff recently highlighted in their self-evaluation that they wanted to extend children's understanding of healthy lifestyles further, and this is now a real strength. Staff use play extremely effectively to help children learn about how carbohydrates give them energy, how protein helps to develop muscles, and the difference between healthy and unhealthy foods.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY460227
Local authority	Kingston upon Thames
Inspection number	993016
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	80
Number of children on roll	98
Name of provider	The Ultimate Activity Company Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0844 8707077

Ultimate Activity Camps at Holy Cross Preparatory School registered in 2013. The camp operates from Holy Cross Preparatory School for Girls, in the London Borough of Kingston upon Thames. The camp operates during the school holidays from 8.30am to 6pm. There are 11 members of staff. The manager and one member of staff hold Qualified Teacher Status, four staff hold level 6 qualifications, one holds a level 5 qualification, one holds a level 3 qualification and three are unqualified.

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