

Super Camps at Queenswood

Queenswood School, Shepherds Way, Brookmans Park, HATFIELD, Hertfordshire,
AL9 6NS



Inspection date	1 August 2017
Previous inspection date	13 August 2014

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

- The manager and his staff carry out risk assessments to effectively identify and minimise risks to children. They also carry out daily safety checks to ensure that the environment remains safe.
- Children demonstrate that they are developing good concentration and problem-solving skills. For example, they spend sustained amounts of time working out how to interlock complex construction pieces as they make their unique creations.
- The manager and his staff reflect on and evaluate the care and activities provided to children. The views of parents are regularly sought through questionnaires to help inform and drive ongoing improvements.
- Parents report that the staff are friendly, very professional and communicate well with them. They state that their children enjoy their time in the camp, which they feel is well organised.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, there are not enough opportunities for children to make independent choices about play.
- Staff do not routinely collect information from parents about their children's interests and preferences when they begin to attend.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with even more opportunities to make independent choices from the wide range of toys and equipment
- seek more detailed information from parents when children first start, in order to further consider children's preferences and interests.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of staff interaction and play during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's development.
- The inspector observed practice and discussed this with the manager.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the operations director, manager, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector also discussed with the operations director and manager how they reflect on practice.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through discussion and written feedback provided at inspection.

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are aware of who the designated safeguarding person is. They have a good knowledge and understanding of how to protect children from harm. Staff are aware of the signs to look out for and what to do if they have any concerns. They record children's arrival and departure times effectively. This ensures that they know who is in the setting at all times. The recruitment of staff is robust. The thorough vetting procedures ensure that all adults working with children have been deemed suitable to do so. The staff team meets with the manager every day. He monitors their practice and helps to support their professional development well. The regional manager regularly visits the setting to hold supervision meetings with the manager and provide professional support. All appropriate documentation is in place and maintained. This helps to ensure that information is up to date and promotes the smooth running of the setting.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy taking part in craft activities. They use their hands to mould and sculpt clay into three-dimensional models and use their own ideas to make their creations, which they proudly show staff. Children spend time exploring and investigating technology. They have lots of fun playing with brightly coloured remote-controlled cars and learn how to steer and manoeuvre these around other children and obstacles in their path. Children enjoy taking part in vigorous physical play activities. They use a wide range of movements. For example, they use a rocking motion to propel wheeled toys and play games that require them to run around. Children show good concentration skills as they sit and listen to staff reading stories about dinosaurs. Some children interact with staff, asking questions about the characters in the books and predicting what might happen next. Children enjoy using their imagination as they play with toys. They make up storylines, drawing on their real and imagined experiences. For example, one child puts on fairy wings and another cares for a baby doll. The children show their understanding of the wider world as they use role-play money to pay for pretend food items.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's health is promoted well. Parents are provided with guidance about the types of food children should bring in their packed lunch. Children enjoy lots of time outside in the fresh air. They have fun searching the grounds with staff looking for materials that are suitable to make a bug house. Children's behaviour is good. They know about taking turns and sharing toys with others. They show good levels of confidence and interact well with visitors, clearly explaining why they must wash their hands before eating lunch. Children are also very aware of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they understand why they must wait for a member of staff to help them cross a small road. Children appear happy and make friendships quickly. When needed they look to staff for support. Children enjoy the positive attention they receive for helping others, for example, when they hold open a door.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY464735
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1105545
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 - 12
Total number of places	150
Number of children on roll	75
Name of registered person	Super Camps Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP906400
Date of previous inspection	13 August 2014
Telephone number	01235 467303

Super Camps at Queenswood registered in 2013. The setting employs four members of childcare staff, two of whom have qualifications relating to education. The setting opens Monday to Friday during the school summer holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm.

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