

Mega Camps Billericay

St. Johns School, 47-49 Stock Road, Billericay, Essex CM12 0AR



Inspection date	16 April 2019
Previous inspection date	30 May 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
Effectiveness of 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 management team and staff strive for excellence and work hard to ensure that the camp is well organised and that children are kept safe. They have successfully addressed the actions and recommendations from the previous inspection. The management team use self-evaluation very well to review the quality of the camp. There are clear plans in place for ongoing improvements.
- Staff provide a wide range of interesting activities and experiences that appeal to children of all ages. For example, they show respect for animals as they gently handle and observe a rabbit, tortoise and meerkat during an animal workshop.
- Children eagerly enter the camp and settle well. They form secure attachments with staff who support their emotional well-being.
- Secure partnerships are in place with parents. Staff keep parents well informed about their child's experiences at the camp. They seek a wealth of information from parents that help them to meet their children's individual needs. Parents say that their children are 'buzzing' following a day at the camp.
- On occasions, staff miss opportunities to help the youngest children to develop their confidence to play and interact with a wider range of children.
- Staff have not yet been wholly successful in building secure partnerships with other provisions that children attend to further support children's achievements and experiences following their attendance at the camp.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage younger children to mix with a wider range of children to help them to form strong friendships with others
- explore further ways to share children's achievements and experiences with teachers from all other provisions that they attend.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the activities indoors and outdoors and the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector talked to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and area manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the camp.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and also took account of their written views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team take robust steps to ensure the suitability of those employed to work with children. They ensure staff understand their responsibility to safeguard children and know what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Staff communicate with each other to ensure that they deploy themselves effectively so that children are consistently within their sight. A highly effective system is in place to ensure that children are only collected by authorised individuals. Regular supervision meetings for staff help the management team to identify and address the training needs of staff. They are provided with good opportunities to build on their knowledge and skills. Recent training has increased staff's understanding of various positive behaviour management strategies. Recruitment processes are robust and new staff receive an induction to ensure that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff express a genuine interest in what children say and make effective use of the regular observations they record of children as they play. They talk with them to find out what they would like to do, to help ensure that children enjoy what is on offer. This helps children to engage in activities and build on their interests. For example, children become engrossed in creating an Easter card. They show that they enjoy the freedom to use their imagination and express their creativity. Staff help children to learn new skills, such as how to sprinkle a small amount of glitter and build a model from small bricks. Children positively respond to the praise that they receive from staff. This motivates them to proudly share their achievements with both staff and visitors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a welcoming environment and provide children with a wide range of good-quality resources and activities to choose from. Children behave well and confidently carry out age-appropriate responsibilities. Older children are positive role models for younger children. A robust system is in place to manage children's allergies and medical needs. Staff meet children's physical needs well. They ensure that there are plenty of opportunities for energetic play indoors and outdoors. For example, children enjoy participating in team games, bouncing on inflatables and drive motorised go-karts around a track outdoors. These opportunities also help children to assess their own risks. Staff help children to notice the affects of exercise on their bodies. For example, they talk to children about feeling warm following exercise and the importance of drinking water.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY550179
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10084995
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children	4 - 13
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	276
Name of registered person	Mega Camps Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP534735
Date of previous inspection	30 May 2018
Telephone number	07876343914

Mega Camps Billericay registered in 2017. It is one of a chain of privately run holiday schemes. The camp operates each weekday during school holidays from 8am to 6pm. The provider employs 17 staff. Of these, four hold qualified teacher status and five staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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