



## Kids Camp

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	123645
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Mount
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kids Camp holiday playscheme has been registered since 1997. It takes place at Redbourn Recreation Centre which is situated on the outskirts of Redbourn and is run by a management company. Children from the local community of Redbourn and the wider catchment of Harpenden, St Albans and surrounding areas attend the playscheme.

Facilities used by the holiday playscheme consist of playing fields, a sports hall, a meeting room and toilet facilities including a disabled toilet. The playscheme caters

for children aged from five years to eleven years and is registered for 24 children aged from five years to under eight years.

The playscheme operates during most school holidays and is open from 09:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday with options for children to attend full days or half day sessions. There are currently 66 children on roll. The playscheme supports children who have learning difficulties or disabilities and/or children who have English as an additional language. There are currently no children who attend with English as an additional language.

There are six members of staff who work with the children on a full time or part time basis.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's nutritional needs are met through parents providing their children with a packed lunch, snacks and any drinks they may require during the day. The playscheme provides children with drinking water which is generally available at all times including when playing outside. Children are able to independently access water when they are thirsty or confidently ask a member of staff to pour them a drink. Staff remind children to have a drink particularly when it is very hot or after physical exercise such as playing in the sports hall.

Children's health is supported by staff who are broadly aware of the health and safety policy and procedures within the setting. Staff will sensitively remind children to wash their hands after visiting the toilet. However, it is not ensured that children wash their hands before eating their snack or lunch. Children's health is safeguarded because appropriate documentation to record accidents and medication are in place and shared with parents to ensure the well-being of the child.

Children have regular opportunities to take part in a varied range of activities which helps to develop their physical skills and to promote a positive attitude to exercise. In the large sports hall children are able to actively participate in physical activities. For example, they enjoy playing rounders and are able to skilfully throw and hit a ball. Children have opportunities to develop their skills on the bouncy castle and benefit from the fresh air through playing games on the playing fields. A quiet area is available in the meeting room where children can rest or relax on large floor cushions.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised through the completion of visual risk assessments of all areas used by children. Appropriate safety precautions are taken to ensure children are

safeguarded. For example, children are supervised well by staff. All staff and children are familiar with the fire safety procedures through practising how to get out of the building quickly and safely. This is generally practised before the playscheme starts and then on a regular basis to ensure everyone has a secure knowledge of the procedures to follow in an emergency.

Children are learning to keep themselves and others safe. For example, staff explain to children safe practices such as walking down the stairs and not running in case they fall and hurt themselves or someone else. Also, they discuss how to hold scissors correctly and safely so as not to injure themselves when cutting out materials for their piece of art work. Children benefit from being able to access an adequate range of safe resources which are developmentally appropriate and therefore children are happy and involved in their play.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because staff have a sound understanding of child protection policies and procedures and know how to implement them if they had any concerns.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled within their environment because staff support them in their play and this helps to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Children feel confident to play independently or in groups. For example, they enjoy playing games such as Twister or Snakes and Ladders with staff and friends and are also happy drawing a picture on their own. Generally, all activities are completed as a whole group although if a child did not wish to participate they are given the opportunity to choose another activity. For example, if a child did not wish to take part in the games session in the sports hall they would be able to complete another activity of their choice.

Children experience a range of activities and play opportunities. There is a daily routine into which activities are planned which relate to a weekly theme or topic. For example, to fit in with the current theme of 'Into the wild' they played a scavenger hunt game. Children enjoy finding items from around the sports centre that begin with the letters in the words 'slithering snake'. Children play co-operatively. For example, they negotiate well when put in small teams to make objects or letter shapes using only their bodies. They talk together to decide how they can make the letter 'A' or how they can make the legs of the table or chair and are very happy when they succeed.

Children develop a sense of achievement as they participate in art and craft activities such as making posters. They talk together as a group about the resources and equipment they will use and enjoy creating their individual designs. Children show pride in their work and are keen to show the end product to staff and to their friends. Work is valued with finished pieces of art work displayed on the walls.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with an adequate range of resources and play opportunities which promotes a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity. Children are treated with equal concern and all children have equal access to resources and activities. The playscheme ensures they are aware of and able to meet any specific needs a child may have through discussion with parents and one to one support is given where appropriate.

Children behave well. They respect each others' feelings, share resources and are encouraged to take turns. Older children include younger ones in their play, such as helping them to understand the rules of a game. Younger children benefit as it develops their self-esteem as they become more settled and relaxed within the group. Children are involved in making the playscheme 'rules' and enjoy making pictures of their favourite rules and these are displayed as reminders to all.

Children's individual needs are met because staff work in partnership with parents. Parents complete a registration form prior to their child starting at the playscheme with all relevant information recorded. Staff are available to talk to parents when children are signed in or collected which ensures information is exchanged to benefit children's overall care. Relevant information such as, policies and procedures are displayed on the parents notice board and these are generally up to date.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The provision does not meet the requirements of the National Standards regarding employing staff who hold appropriate childcare qualifications. The manager does not hold a relevant level 3 childcare qualification although she has many years experience of running holiday playschemes. Staff have some childcare experience but do not have sufficient knowledge, experience and skills to ensure children's welfare is not compromised.

There are systems in place for recruiting and vetting staff and holiday playscheme staff generally attend an induction day prior to the playscheme commencing. However, because of late staff changes, staff did not complete an induction prior to the scheme commencing for the summer holiday period. Staff generally understand their roles and responsibilities and are mostly aware of the setting's policies and procedures and how to implement them. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being are in place although some documentation does need reviewing and updating as it is now out of date.

Overall, children's needs are not met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure parents sign medication records when any medicine has been administered and to ensure staff, children and visitors attendance is recorded accurately. The provider was also asked to review the organisation of the meeting room to ensure children had an area to rest or relax and to increase the availability of resources to give children greater choice. All recommendations have been addressed.

Children's health is safeguarded because medication procedures now ensure parents always sign to acknowledge when medicine has been administered to their child and this includes prior written consent also being obtained. Children's safety and welfare are maintained because the registration system has been reviewed and children, staff and visitors attendance at the holiday playscheme is now accurately recorded. Children's well-being and development are promoted because a quiet area has been developed with floor cushions available where children have the opportunity to rest or relax as they wish. Also, children now have a selection of resources they can independently access and which are suitable for the age and stage of development of the children who attend the playscheme.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

#### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- set out an action plan detailing how the manager will meet the level 3 qualification criteria appropriate for the care and development of children and in what timescale this will be achieved
- set out an action plan detailing how at least half of all staff will hold a level 2 qualification appropriate for the care or development of children and in what timescale this will be achieved. Also, how it will be ensured there is a named

deputy who has appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to take full charge in the absence of the manager.

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)