

Kids Camp

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	123645
Inspection date	30 May 2007
Inspector	Jane Mount
Setting Address	Redbourn Recreation Centre, Dunstable Road, REDBOURN, Hertfordshire, AL3 7PP
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Registered person	Redbourn Recreation Centre Management Co Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets 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 11 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 30 children on roll. The playscheme is able to support children who have learning difficulties or disabilities and children who have English as an additional language.

There are eight 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 are cared for in a clean environment where positive steps are taken to minimise the spread of infection and to keep children healthy. For example, it is ensured paper towels and soap are always available so children can wash and dry their hands after visiting the toilet. Also, bins are available to dispose of rubbish and consequently the risk of cross infection is minimised. Children are aware of the importance of good hygiene and when asked generally know why they must wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. Overall, children's health is protected by staff who implement the setting's clear and effective health and safety procedures in a consistent manner. It is always ensured that a fully qualified first aider is available in case of an accident and a fully stocked first aid kit is also available. Accident and medication records are correctly maintained including always obtaining parental signatures to acknowledge an accident has occurred, although records do not clearly show which is the parent's signature.

Children have regular opportunities to exercise. They are able to take part in a varied range of activities which helps to promote a positive attitude towards exercise. For example, they have regular access to a large sports hall where they are able to use a variety of sports equipment. They particularly enjoy playing games, such as, 'Duck, duck, goose' and 'Dodge ball' and delight in using the space to run and further develop their physical skills. A large outside playing field is also available for use and the children use this when the weather is fine. Children have opportunities to rest and relax with a selection of books to look at and floor cushions which are sometimes available.

Children's nutritional needs are met through parents providing their children with a packed lunch and snacks and any drinks they may require during the day. The playscheme also ensures drinking water is freely available at all times with a water dispenser and cups accessible to children. This includes when children are using the hall or the outside play area. Children are encouraged to independently access their own drinks and staff are also available to assist them if required which ensures children do not become thirsty.

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 where the risk of accidental injury is minimised through the completion of risk assessments. These are completed on a daily basis and include all areas used by the children and a written record is maintained of these completed checks. Appropriate safety precautions are taken and staff are deployed well to ensure children are closely supervised so they cannot leave the premises unsupervised and no unauthorised person can gain access to the playscheme. Consequently, children are not put at risk and are safeguarded.

Children are learning how to keep themselves and others safe because staff generally raise children's awareness of potential hazards. For example, before going downstairs to the sports hall children are reminded to check their shoes to ensure they are securely done up so no one trips and hurts themselves on the stairs. Also, when in the hall they talk about ensuring they have sufficient space around them when running so as not to knock someone over. Children learn how to stay safe in an emergency with all staff and children familiar with fire safety procedures through practising how to get out of the building quickly and safely. Children have

access to a varied range of safe resources which are appropriate for the ages of the children who attend the playscheme. Resources help to create an accessible environment and staff oversee the activities and offer support as needed.

Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection. A child protection policy is in place which is informative and all staff are aware of and know how to implement it if they have a concern. The manager is the designated person for child protection and has completed an appropriate course. She ensures all staff are familiar with the correct recording and reporting procedures and that they fully understand their responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled within their environment and have a strong sense of belonging which enables them to confidently access the play and learning experiences available. There is a daily routine with some activities informally planned. Children's preferences are always taken into consideration and the playscheme likes to focus on children's interests. Children are happy in their play and when asked talk about the playscheme in a positive manner. For example, they say they have a 'great time' and enjoy coming to the playscheme because 'it's fun'.

Children are able to freely make choices from a varied range of activities, resources and play opportunities which are available and this develops their independence skills and encourages them to use their initiative. Children feel confident to play independently as well as in small and larger groups. Staff ensure children are purposefully engaged and are on hand to support them as needed and this allows children to play more effectively.

Children develop a sense of achievement as they keenly take part in art and craft activities. They enjoy drawing pictures of activities they would like to participate in during the day and they proudly show their pom-pom puppets they made the previous day. Children's art work is valued by staff and some finished pieces are displayed on the walls.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a satisfactory range of resources and play opportunities which promote a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity. They have some opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through their play and through some planned activities. Children are treated as individuals and with equal concern and all children have equal access to all resources and activities. Staff ensure they are aware of and able to meet any specific needs a child may have through discussions with parents and one to one support is given where appropriate.

Children understand responsible behaviour and play well together. They are learning to respect each other's feelings, share resources and take turns. Staff talk about acceptable behaviour and reinforce sharing, taking turns and respecting others. For example, children know they have to wait their turn when playing a quiz game before giving their answer. Also, older children include younger ones in their play, such as, explaining the rules of the game when playing 'Guess Who'. This develops younger children's self-esteem and they become more settled within the group. Children are taught to be polite to others and the staff are good role models. Behaviour is dealt with in ways appropriate to the child's level of understanding so that they

know what is expected of them. Behaviour is dealt with in a consistent and positive manner with children regularly praised by staff.

Children's individual needs are effectively met because staff work in close 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 and this ensures all information is exchanged to benefit children's overall care. Relevant information, such as policies and procedures are displayed on the informative parents' noticeboard and all information is regularly reviewed and kept up to date.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Documentation for the efficient and safe management of the setting is in place and all policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated. Registers are maintained and record children, staff and visitors' attendance. However, the recording systems used for the registers sometimes means that children's attendance is not accurately reflected in the registers and potentially children's safety may be at risk in an emergency. Children are supervised and supported in their play by staff who work well together as a team and know what their roles and responsibilities are. Ratios are always maintained.

Children's welfare is protected as there are effective recruitment systems in place to ensure staff working with children are suitable to do so. This includes the setting having an action plan in place detailing how they are in the process of meeting the qualification requirements of the National Standards with some staff in the process of undertaking child care qualifications. Children remain safe and are not at risk because all staff have appropriate checks completed and any person not yet vetted would not have unsupervised access to children and all staff are aware of this. Staff induction is in place and is effective at ensuring all new staff are fully informed and able to implement the setting's policies and procedures along with the National Standards. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to set out an action plan detailing how the manager will meet the NVQ Level 3 qualification requirement and at least half of the staff will meet the NVQ Level 2 qualification requirement. Also, the setting was asked to show how the deputy will have the required qualifications and experience to take charge in the absence of the manager.

The setting has worked hard to address the qualification requirements of the National Standards and they have put an action plan in place detailing how they are going to achieve this. In September 2006 the manager began a NVQ Level 3 childcare course and at the same time two members of staff began a NVQ Level 2 childcare course. However, since then, one member of staff is no longer employed at the setting and the other member of staff has decided to undertake a teaching qualification instead but the manager is hoping to have two more members of staff commencing a level two qualification in September 2007 when another course begins. The action plan also details how the manager will always be present when the playscheme is

operating until the deputy is suitably qualified. Consequently, children's care and development are promoted.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets 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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- review register recording systems to ensure children are recorded in all registers
- review accident records to ensure parents' signatures are clearly recorded.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk