

# Inspection of Henlow Holiday Camps Derwent

Derwent Lower School, Hitchin Road, Henlow SG16 6BA

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Inspection date: 30 May 2025

**The quality and  
standards of early  
years provision**

**This  
inspection**

**Met**

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Previous  
inspection

Not applicable

## What is it like to attend this early years setting?

### This provision meets requirements

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting. They arrive confidently and are warmly greeted by staff. Children are familiar with the routine and settle to activities of their choice until formal registration. The day is well organised to provide children with plenty of opportunities for physical activities as well as to relax and be creative. Staff know the children well. Children show that they form good bonds with staff. Younger children know who their key person is and are confident to seek reassurance or support from them or any staff member should they need to.

With a focus on social interaction, staff provide children with a broad range of activities that reflect their interests and promote team games. Children receive lots of support and praise to have a go and try new things. Staff use a range of strategies to help children share, take turns and develop negotiation skills that foster teamwork and respect towards each other. Staff make the most of the outdoor space and equipment to promote healthy lifestyles and physical activity. Children learn how to play tennis, climb on school playground equipment or play team games, such as football or dodgeball. Staff ensure there is a good balance that provides children with time to rest and chat with their friends.

### What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Leaders are well organised and prioritise children's safety and well-being. They are highly reflective and regularly review with staff how the holiday provision has met children's needs and consider how they can improve, to enhance children's play experiences.
- The provider notified Ofsted of two separate accidents where children sustained injuries. Following the accidents, the provider reviewed the risk assessment for specific playground apparatus and their outdoor play procedures. They have taken appropriate action, and shared revised processes with staff, to minimise the risk of another accident.
- Staff are enthusiastic about their work at the setting. They say that they are well supported in their role and receive regular training and coaching that helps them develop further.
- Staff are vigilant to ensure the environment is safe. They give children specific instructions about how to use equipment for different activities. Staff share information with children when there may be changes to how the outdoor space is accessed, such as when workmen install new equipment on the school playground. They use walkie-talkie radios to keep in contact with each other as children choose different activities in different areas. This means that, in the event of an emergency, staff can promptly call for help and keep children safe.

- Leaders and staff have good partnership working with the host school. This provides an effective two-way flow of information that helps to keep children safe, such as when repairs or additions are made to the school premises.
- Leaders provide an inclusive environment, where each child's individual needs are well met. Staff gather information from parents to understand how best to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to help them access and join in the varied activities on offer. Leaders work closely with the host school to support families to access the holiday provision.
- Staff promote children's choice throughout the sessions. Children choose from a good range of activities on offer. They show good attention and enjoy the social aspect of mixing with older and younger children. This helps children build good levels of self-esteem and respect towards each other. Children have lots of fun and through their body language show that they enjoy attending the club. They have especially enjoyed the recent addition of laser tag.
- Staff talk to children as they play and engage them in meaningful conversation about what they do at the setting and at home. Children enjoy using online apps, such as those for computer art. The provider ensures that internet access is restricted, however, there is less discussion to help children learn about being safe when using online apps and the internet.
- Staff share information with parents in a variety of ways. This ensures that children have everything they need for the day and that parents know what children will be doing.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

## Setting details

|                                                    |                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b>                     | 2789409                                                                           |
| <b>Local authority</b>                             | Central Bedfordshire                                                              |
| <b>Inspection number</b>                           | 10402460                                                                          |
| <b>Type of provision</b>                           | Childcare on non-domestic premises                                                |
| <b>Registers</b>                                   | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register |
| <b>Day care type</b>                               | Out-of-school day care                                                            |
| <b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b> | 4 to 11                                                                           |
| <b>Total number of places</b>                      | 60                                                                                |
| <b>Number of children on roll</b>                  | 155                                                                               |
| <b>Name of registered person</b>                   | Kids Holiday Camp Ltd                                                             |
| <b>Registered person unique reference number</b>   | 2697995                                                                           |
| <b>Telephone number</b>                            | 07817113363                                                                       |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b>                 | Not applicable                                                                    |

## Information about this early years setting

Henlow Holiday Camps Derwent registered in 2024. The club operates from a school site but is independently run. It operates during school holidays, except for the Christmas holidays. Sessions are Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm. The provider employs 30 staff, who are available to work at the two clubs they operate.

## Information about this inspection

**Inspector**  
Gail Warnes

## Inspection activities

- The nominated individual showed the inspector the premises and discussed how they ensure they are safe and suitable.
- Children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual and registered individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- Staff spoke to the inspector about how they support children with SEND.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and the children.
- The nominated individual and the inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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