

Inspection of Mega Camps Billericay

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

Inspection date:

3 January 2025

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children are incredibly happy at this friendly and fun camp. Children have developed excellent bonds with staff, which means they feel safe and secure and have a strong sense of belonging. Staff know children very well because many children return regularly. This helps staff to tailor experiences to what they know about children's interests. New children are assigned a 'friendship buddy' who helps them to settle into the setting and make new friendships.

Friendships are strong. Children show their happiness as they play with friends and in small groups. Children comment that they love coming to the setting because they have so much fun with their friends. Behaviour is very good. Staff set clear and consistent boundaries that children understand well. Regular reminders about the rules take place. Children remember these and proudly repeat them back to adults. Staff use their knowledge of children to manage any challenges as they arise. When children show signs of becoming disengaged, staff skilfully intervene and support children to find a new interest.

The wide range of fun and engaging activities promotes children's physical development and social interaction. Staff recognise the importance of giving children these experiences. This helps children develop positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles, both physically and mentally.

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

- Children access a range of fun and exciting activities. Staff listen to children's views and use their knowledge of what children enjoy to plan the broad range of daily activities. Children rotate between activities. For example, they create polar bear masks, play dodge ball and develop routines in drama and dance sessions. They show pride in their achievements and show the inspector their completed masks.
- Leaders have ensured that the setting is accessible to all children. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported through care plans to fully access the provision. The setting makes excellent use of additional funding to extend opportunities for children who may not otherwise be able to attend.
- Younger children engage in inspiring activities. During a bug hunt, they explore what frost is. When they discover a hole in a tree, they discuss the possible animals or birds who might live there. Children use magnifiers to explore natural features such as tree sap and leaves.
- Children demonstrate that they feel safe and secure. They confidently explain what they should do if they feel sad or unhappy, or if a friend was being unkind or hurting them. Staff help children to stay safe. They remind children of safety

rules before activities and outings. Children who have dietary requirements are aware of the foods they cannot eat and explain why they wear a yellow wristband.

- Children radiate joy and happiness as they engage in a dance session and play musical statues. Older children show camaraderie as they take part in 'axe throwing' tournaments. They cheer in support of the winning team. Staff help children to develop positive attitudes and resilience. They promote the importance of working as a team and that you cannot always be a winner.
- The team of staff is highly reflective. Staff carry out a daily reflective session to identify what went well and what they might need to change for the next day. The voice of the child is central to decision-making. Children can vote for activities and their feedback and ideas are used to make improvements. Regular quality assurance checks and audits further support continuous improvements to take place. However, training opportunities for staff to expand their play skills are limited. This means that experiences for children led by staff may not always offer the level of excitement and interest as those delivered through external providers.
- Staff report that they feel supported by leaders. Regular supervision provides staff with an opportunity to talk about their performance and share any concerns. They feel supported by senior leaders and head office staff, who visit regularly and offer support and feedback. Strong safe recruitment processes mean that only staff who are suitable to work with children are able to do so. Leaders check the ongoing suitability of staff during supervisions.
- Parents share their gratitude for having a place at the club. They comment that children develop friendships, have fun, and grow in confidence. Parents appreciate the support children receive from staff and how children are sad when the club comes to an end.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY550179
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10372378
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 at time of inspection	4 to 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
Telephone number	07876343914
Date of previous inspection	16 April 2019

Information about this early years setting

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 12 staff. Of these, two hold qualified teacher status and one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Clare Ford

Inspection activities

- The inspector joined leaders for a learning walk around the setting and discussed how they organise the activities for children.
- The inspector observed the quality of staff interactions and the play opportunities available to children.
- The provider shared relevant documentation, including suitability records and first-aid qualification details of staff members.
- Children and staff spoke to the inspector about their time at 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2025