

Inspection of Pied Piper Cumnor House

Cumnor House Sussex, London Road, Danehill, Haywards Heath RH17 7HT

Inspection date: 30 July 2025

The quality and standards of early years provision

This inspection

Met

Previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

The enthusiastic staff team greets the children warmly as they arrive at the camp. Staff immediately get to know children's names and engage with them in friendly discussions. This helps children to settle, feel welcomed, and begin to develop a sense of belonging. Staff use information gathered from parents to plan a bespoke experience for each child. They are trained to support children who find transitions a little difficult. Staff are gentle and respectful and are acutely aware of the individual needs of the children.

Staff reiterate the camp rules at the beginning of each day. Children are aware of the boundaries and routines. They know that they must always be able to see the yellow camp clothing that all staff wear. Children are encouraged to be independent as soon as they arrive. They put away their belongings and are eager to help adults transport equipment and tidy away activities.

Staff are excellent role models, and this has a positive impact on children's behaviour. Any minor disagreements are dealt with sensitively and firmly and children develop friendships with other children very quickly. Staff are attentive and are particularly vigilant with those children who are attending the camp for the first time or with children who are very young. They ensure that children have someone to play with or a hand to hold when going on a woodland walk.

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

- The camp is very well managed. Leaders ensure that they create a regular presence at the camp. Parents are invited to give their feedback, which leaders use to provide a high-quality experience. Leaders work alongside staff and model good practice, and staff feedback indicates that the support from leaders is excellent. They mention that the training provided fully enables them to carry out their roles. Several staff attended the camp as children and are keen to create memorable moments similar to their own previous experiences.
- There is a stringent recruitment process in place. This ensures that all staff are safe to work with children and that they fully understand the camp's policies and procedures. Leaders actively recruit staff who have a passion for working with children. As a result, children play alongside adults who are genuinely interested in them.
- The camp is fully inclusive, and children have the opportunity to benefit from experiences they might not have had otherwise. Leaders and staff work closely with parents of children who have specific medical needs or special educational needs and/or disabilities. Parents are also asked to pass on information that will help a child settle. They are provided with detailed, important information at

handover about their child's day, such as newly formed friendships.

- Children demonstrate exemplary behaviour. They are extremely polite and respectful. Staff encourage children to listen when others are talking and always to be kind. They listen attentively to others, asking for their opinions and inviting them to contribute to the games and activities. This approach helps children to feel listened to and develop a respect for what others have to say.
- Children enjoy a large range of stimulating activities. Staff are responsible for planning activities to meet the needs of children in their group. Children engage in team games that encourage friendships. They become excited as they enter the swimming pool or take part in a pirate treasure hunt in the woods. Staff fully explain the rules around some camp activities which carry a small risk. This helps children develop an understanding of how to manage their own safety.
- The camp has a theme that runs throughout the week. Staff use this theme, such as pirates, to plan age-appropriate games and activities that cater to children's individual interests. For example, children who prefer physical games have endless opportunities to engage in sports and large group games. Children who might need a quiet space or enjoy crafts can freely choose to do this. At the end of each week, children entertain their parents with a camp show and have the opportunity to celebrate their own achievements.

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	2739434
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	10399940
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	4 to 12
Total number of places	43
Number of children on roll	48
Name of registered person	Pied Piper North Activities Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2723899
Telephone number	07834783651
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The provider registered in 2023 and operates from Cumnor House school in Haywards Heath, West Sussex. They operate during the school holidays including Easter and three weeks in the summer holidays, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.45pm. All nine members of staff at the camp hold a relevant childcare qualification. Two are qualified teachers.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tina Lambert

Inspection activities

- A camp leader and the inspector completed a tour of the premises and discussed how activities are planned and organised.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector observed the quality of the camp activities and interactions between staff and the children.
- The inspector viewed a range of relevant documentation that was provided on request.

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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