

# Snap Hertfordshire Limited

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY357705
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sheila Harrison
<b>Setting Address</b>	Woodfield School, Malmes Croft, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 8RL
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<b>Registered person</b>	Snap Hertfordshire Ltd
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Snap Holiday play scheme registered in 2007 having previously been registered at other sites in the area. Snap Hertfordshire Limited is run by a charity which runs seven other sites for children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities.

This scheme operates from four rooms in the senior block of a local authority special school situated in the Leverstock Green area of Hemel Hempstead. A maximum of 20 children under eight years of age may attend the play scheme at any one time including no more than 10 children between three and five years of age. There are 30 children on roll. It is open for part of the Easter and summer holidays each weekday from 10:00 to 15:00. There are extensive secure outdoor play areas that include a wooded area. The scheme offers regular outings to various local and regional children's attractions. Children come from a wide catchment area to access this specialist provision which supports children with learning difficulties and or disabilities. The scheme employs nine staff. Five staff have appropriate teaching and early years qualifications. In addition, young volunteers from 16 years of age are recruited to provide additional support and are always supervised.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well nourished. They have healthy snacks, and drinks are easily available. Children's special dietary needs are precisely catered for. Full information on the diet and manner of feeding is obtained from the parents and training is given to staff who use specialist feeding techniques, for example, tube feeding.

Children's health is protected as staff follow suitable hygiene procedures. Staff ensure that the packed lunches which parents provide are adequately stored. Tables are suitably cleaned before snacks and meals. There is a comfortable changing area which allows children to be changed in a private and sensitive manner. Children's changing routines are consistently managed for children that are well known to the staff. However, the comfort of children new to the play scheme is potentially compromised as staff are not fully informed with information at the start of a scheme.

Staff are well informed of the children's medical needs. They ensure that medication is correctly managed and suitable information and permission is obtained from parents. Staff have adequate resources to allow children to rest comfortably if needed.

Children have many valuable opportunities to play in the fresh air and have sufficient exercise. They freely access the large areas of the playground within the premises. This contains exciting and challenging climbing equipment and when the weather allows, a wooded area. Children take their play materials outside, painting a large banner to work on a larger more active scale. Children have frequent visits to the local park and they to nearby adventure playground that has facilities to cater for the needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well planned and purpose built environment. There is sufficient space and facilities to promote children's care. Children enjoy the free access to the outside play areas. The classrooms and hallway give children adequate space to move freely for mixed activities. For example, art and crafts, the large constructive play and an area for reading.

Children are learning to be safe as the exit notices are displayed at their level and in pictorial form. Children are kept safe as adequate steps are taken to minimise the risks in the premises and on outings. Staff walk to the emergency evacuation points to be sure they follow the correct procedure. They assessed the woodland area as unsuitable to use on the first day of the play scheme due to standing water. Risk assessments are made to ensure children are safe on outings and the parents provide children's car seats for the scheme to use. The scheme ensures that the transport used is suitably licensed and is accessible for use by children in wheelchairs. Children can choose from a wide range of safe and suitable resources.

Parents provide details on their children which inform the deployment of staff and the risk assessments. This is working well with the established children known to the club. Staff quickly consider the needs of new children. However, the safety of children new to the play scheme is potentially compromised as information on them does not fully inform the staff or risk assessments at the start of a scheme.

Children are protected from harm as the established staff team have an adequate understanding of child protection procedures. They receive information and follow suitable recording policies.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and busy. They are well supported in their play as they benefit from good interactions with staff. Staff have a warm rapport with the children and the level of interaction is carefully balanced as each child has a dedicated member of staff or volunteer. Children are motivated with a purposeful range of developmentally appropriate play. They have a range of art and craft activities and make a banner with a mixture of individual contributions. Staff are aware of each child's favourite activities and provide specific resources to support them in their play. They provide large quantities of paper and a pair of scissors for children who enjoy making patterns. Children are sensitively encouraged to communicate their wants in differing and valuable ways. Staff use the methods used by the children at school and at home. They carry a range of pictures for children to point at, some staff use a Makaton signing system. Staff have information from the parents to ensure that facial expressions are correctly interpreted for children that find communicating in other ways very difficult.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

There are very effective links with parents of children that are well established within the setting to ensure individual needs are met. Information on the children is collected at the beginning of each holiday to ensure any change to the child's care is respected. However, the collection of information for children new to the setting is less proactive and this potentially limits the action that can be taken to promote the children's welfare. Parents comment that the staff are very supportive and care for their children very well.

Staff work with parents and other professionals to ensure the well-being of the children that have a wide range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities are met. Children benefit from some activities and resources that help them value diversity. They enjoy the colourful art activities to acknowledge the Hindu festival of Holi. Children are gaining a valuable insight into the wider world as they are taken on frequent outings into the community such as swimming in the local pool. During the summer holidays they are taken to local attractions such as the children's farm and indoor activity centres.

Staff are very competent and deal sensitively with the children's challenging behaviour. They help children develop an awareness of right and wrong by setting realistic expectations and appropriate boundaries. They know the children's personalities well and support the children to manage their own feelings.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are suitably cared for by a committed team of experienced staff. A high staff to child ratio is provided to positively support their care within this specialist scheme. Information on the children is usually effectively shared as staff meet at the beginning and end of each session to discuss some details on the children and to evaluate the session.

The manager has a clear vision and acts as a good role model. She assesses the quality of the provision and recognises that the induction and training scheme for volunteers is under developed. Staff are committed to continual improvement and undertake relevant professional qualifications and short courses to update their knowledge and skills. They are recruited with an interest in caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are details on the Criminal Bureau Checks for each member of staff and, through discussion there appears to be an adequate recruitment system although there is little evidence that there is a robust system of checks in place. This potentially limits the safe management of children. Overall children's needs are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

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

Since registration 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):

- enhance procedures to ensure suitable steps are taken to identify the individual needs of a child on admission to the provision
- develop sufficient evidence to ensure staff are suitably recruited and vetted and that volunteers undertake sufficient induction procedures before the start of the playscheme.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)