



## **Barracudas**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY331015
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 August 2006
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<b>Registered person</b>	Young World Leisure Group Limited
<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Barracudas Activity Day Camp opened in 2006 and operates from a number of classrooms in Bromley High School GDST. It is one of 28 provisions run by Young World Leisure Group Ltd. It is situated in the London Borough of Bromley. A maximum of 200 children may attend the activity camp at any one time. The activity camp is open Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 18.00 during school Easter and summer holidays. Children arrive at 08.45 and are collected at 17.15. All children share access to the extensive outside playing fields which form part of the school.

There are currently 37 children aged under eight years on roll. Children come from

the local and wider area. The group welcomes children with special educational needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The activity camp employs 22 staff including six staff working with the children under eight. Six of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well being is adequately promoted. Staff remind children to wash their hands when they have been to the toilet and there are appropriate resources, such as, soap and paper towels available to help the children follow the suitable procedures. Through the routines they begin to understand why they wash their hands after toileting. The children say that washing hands gets rid of germs. Children are kept safe from the risk of cross infection. Children who are unwell stay at home and if they are taken ill during the day parents are contacted to collect them. Children's health is protected by the sound practice followed.

Children have plenty of opportunities to be active inside and outside. A variety of physical activities are offered. For example, tennis, rounders, trampoline and swimming ensure that children can have fun whilst developing their physical skills. They benefit from the regular exercise on offer.

Children's dietary requirements are considered as their needs are recorded when they first start. Children bring their own packed lunches and the group provide parents with information about what food should be sent. For example, there is no cold storage for dairy products so ice packs are recommended. Opportunities for children to learn about healthy options are limited. A tuck shop offers a variety of sweets, pop-corn and fruit crisps. However, no fruit or healthier options are offered. Drinks are readily available, children can bring their own and the group provide choices of water or juice. This helps to keep them hydrated during physical activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment which is well organised. There is plenty of space for them to move around and play within safe boundaries. They move from one activity to another in groups and stay within sight at all times. The equipment available is well maintained and suitable for its purpose. There is an effective risk assessment system carried out daily, for example, staff complete a check list on the premises before the children arrive. Children's safety is promoted well.

Children are protected by the effective procedures in place. For example, at the beginning of each week a fire drill is carried out. An extra ad-hoc drill ensures they

experience an evacuation in an emergency situation. Therefore, children are learning to keep themselves safe. Children learn to use the equipment provided as the staff take time to explain how to use it safely. Children's abilities are assessed and they are grouped accordingly. Children can feel confident as suitably qualified staff are in attendance. For example, a qualified life guard oversees all swimming sessions.

Children are well cared for and protected from harm because staff get to know the children well through working with them very closely. The staff receive some training to help them be aware of child protection issues. Children's safety is clearly important to them and they follow an appropriate set of procedures should concerns arise. Children receive a good level of support and guidance which helps them to develop independence while remaining safe.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very well settled at the activity camp. Each morning they are greeted warmly and the staff spend time chatting to them and their parents. They appear confident and make themselves at home quickly. There is a wide range of activities available for children to choose from. For example, swimming, hockey, tennis, gym, trampoline, art and craft sessions and for the younger children organised scavenger hunts. Children are based in a classroom with consistent members of staff. Therefore, they are able to build relationships.

The younger children show great enthusiasm as they go on a scavenger hunt. Children are given a word and they have to find as many objects as they can beginning with the letters in the word. Children are split into groups and quickly and excitedly point out objects to add to the list. Staff ask them open-ended questions which make them think, for example, when a child shouts out an object they are asked "what sound does that make?" Or "which letter does that begin with?" Children enjoy the challenge and are learning as they have fun.

Children enjoy art and craft activities as well as music and movement. During break time the older children show the others how to do the "Cha, Cha slide" staff join in and there is lots of excitement. The activity camp provides plenty of choice and enjoyment for children. They are able to be active, have fun and make the most of their school holidays.

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

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect and are made to feel good about themselves. The staff use lots of praise and encouragement to help build their self esteem. A positive attitude towards diversity ensures that all children are treated equally and activities offered are non-discriminatory. For example, activities such as football are available to both boys and girls.

Children are encouraged to set their own rules. They agree to be kind, not to climb on furniture, not to run inside and not to shout, these are reinforced each day. Therefore, they feel responsibility for their own behaviour and learn to respect each other. Staff provide children with positive role models, they establish rules when using equipment or playing team games. Children make good progress in the clear boundaries set.

An effective partnership with parents contributes to children's well-being. Comprehensive information is obtained before children start, therefore children can be cared for according to parents wishes. Parents and children's feedback is encouraged through questionnaires and suggestion boxes. This means that the group can develop the service they provide and children feel valued as individuals.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease within the well organised environment. They are full of confidence and are self assured, this means that they are able to initiate and extend their learning and play effectively. The space available is utilised well and ratios are strictly maintained. Consistently well thought out planning contributes to valuable experiences for children. Children enjoy their time at the activity camp.

The group review their practice regularly as they are committed to providing children with a wide variety of opportunities. Children, parents and staff are encouraged to complete questionnaires which ensure they feel valued and involved. Staff receive a two day induction before the activity camp starts. This means that they know the groups aims and objectives which underpin the whole experience for children.

The comprehensive policies and procedures developed by the group are used effectively and promote children's welfare, care and learning. A positive attitude towards training ensures that staffs knowledge is kept up-to-date. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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 good. 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):

- ensure that children are offered healthy options at snack time.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)