



Barracudas - Brentwood County High

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330758
Inspection date	11 August 2006
Inspector	Samantha Smith
Setting Address	Brentwood County High School, Seven Arches Road, BRENTWOOD, Essex, CM14 4JF
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Registered person	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	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.

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 Holiday summer camp is one of 28 run by Young World Leisure Group. It opened in 2006 and operates from Brentwood County High School, close to the town centre.

The summer camp uses the sports hall, gymnasium, drama hall, art and craft rooms, swimming pool, hall, dining room, outside playing fields and playground areas. The camp has the use of seven classrooms as base rooms together with a separate the camp office.

The camp is registered for a maximum of 200 children at any one time, aged four to 16 years old. There are currently 48 children under eight years on roll. The play scheme is open five days a week from 08.00 until 18.00 for four weeks each year, during school summer holidays. Children come from the local and wider area. The group welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and who speak English as an additional language.

There are 14 staff working with the children and over half have an appropriate qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a clean environment with well-maintained toys and equipment. Their health is promoted by effective procedures and staff's good hygiene practices. Children are encouraged to follow hygiene routines, such as washing their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet.

There is a qualified first aider on the premises at all times, ensuring children receive the necessary care in the event of an accident or illness. Appropriate arrangements are in place should a child become ill in the setting and any medication administered is clearly recorded with prior parental consent. There is a designated area for children to rest should they become unwell.

Children make healthy choices from the snacks provided from the tuck shop. Choices include apple crisps, yoghurt coated raisins, water or juice. Posters on display in the tuck area remind children of the healthy choices.

Children have frequent opportunities on a daily basis to enjoy an extensive range of activities that help to develop their confidence in physical skills. They eagerly participate in games where they run, climb, swim and acquire skills in other areas including, archery, motor skills, fencing and trampolining.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Security of the premises is given high regard and children's safety is promoted effectively, ensuring the premises and equipment is suitable for their purpose. Staff are vigilant with regard to promoting safety. They carry out thorough daily risk assessments on the premises and equipment before and after using them.

To ensure children's safety, children are taken around the school and staff discuss the boundaries with them. Good levels of supervision are maintained at all times. Children are divided into base rooms according to their ages and they are assigned key workers that are responsible for them whilst in the setting. Fire evacuation procedures are displayed and these are practised with the children.

Children are protected from harm because staff have sound knowledge and understanding of their role in regards to child protection. They are able to put appropriate procedures into practice and refer to the guidance when necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, confident and well-settled. Staff ensure that children have fun at the summer camp. They take part in a fulfilling range of activities which provides high levels of

challenge and promotes learning in all areas of development. Plans are devised to ensure children have a wide variety of stimulating activities and experiences that meets their interests. These include fencing, trampolining, arts and crafts, and circus skills.

Children eagerly participate in an imaginative range of creative activities and are proud of their achievements. For example they thoroughly enjoy making plaster cast moulds and papier mache masks. They are making friends and are developing social skills as they share and take turns with the equipment and activities.

Children benefit from the individual support they receive from highly trained staff in specialist activities, such as motor skills, swimming and archery. This allows children to further develop skills and pursue their personal interests. High levels of commitment and enthusiasm from the staff encourages children to actively participate in all activities. They offer their own ideas and respond to challenges with great enthusiasm.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place to support children with additional needs, staff request information from parents with regards to specific needs and share information with other team members. All children are encouraged to participate in activities. Adaptions for archery and fencing are made for the younger and less able children. This ensures children have equal opportunity to maximise their enjoyment. However, resources and activities do not increase children's awareness of others, although there some children attending from various backgrounds.

Children make a very positive contribution as they take an active role in devising the rules for the setting in their base rooms, so they are aware of the boundaries in place. They develop a strong sense of belonging to the group and learn that their ideas and actions are valued. They are divided into various teams throughout each of the base rooms and are awarded points for positive actions and behaviour. At the end of each week the winning team is awarded a prize.

Partnership with parents is good. They receive clear written information about the setting to ensure they are informed of the aims and staff responsibilities in caring for children. Information includes sickness, behaviour, arrival and collection and complaints. Ofsted's contact details are provided in the main policy folder which is available to parents. Staff also liaise with parents verbally to inform them of their child's wellbeing, and questionnaires are given to children and parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There are robust recruitment procedures in place to ensure staff are suitable. Staff have had the required checks carried out and their ongoing suitability is monitored. As a result, children are cared for by qualified and suitably experienced staff. Most of the staff team are qualified teachers and the others are currently training.

Deployment of staff attending ensures that ratios are maintained throughout the day and the attendance register consolidates this. Staff continually supervise and interact with children in the designated areas. Parents are required to register their children's arrival and departure times at the beginning, which works well. Children have adequate space to play. They have access to classrooms, three large gyms, a swimming pool, arts and crafts rooms and a large outdoor area and the playground.

The setting has the required paperwork in place. The registration certificate is displayed during hours of operation. Children and staff records are kept and written policies and procedures inform adults of their responsibilities in caring for children.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provision is required to keep a record of complaint made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints log may contain complaints other than those known 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):

- plan and provide activities and resources to promote equal opportunities with particular regard to cultural differences.

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