

Barracudas Activity Camp

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330986
Inspection date	26 July 2007
Inspector	Jane Nelson
Setting Address	St. Catherines School, Cross Deep, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 4QJ
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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 Activity Camp, Twickenham was registered in 2006 and is one of 27 provisions run by a private company. It operates from a primary school in Twickenham in the London Borough of Richmond. The setting is registered to care for 140 children aged four to eight years. There are currently 186 children on roll. Children aged between eight and 16 years also attend the setting. Systems are in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also children who speak English as an additional language.

Children have access to four base classrooms in the school, and the school grounds. On site facilities also include two sports halls, a dining hall, an indoor heated swimming pool, art room and tennis courts. Children from the school and surrounding areas attend the setting, which, operates Monday to Friday, between 08:00 - 18:00, for four weeks during school summer holidays. A team of 11 staff, plus the manager and deputy, are employed. Of these, six staff currently work with the children aged under eight, three of these staff have teaching qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities for physical exercise and activities, which encourages their good health and physical development. They enjoy a good range of planned physical activities as part of the daily routine, and have great fun during activities, such as, swimming, jumping on the trampoline and bouncy castle and sliding along the aqua slide. Children enjoy warming up exercises, such as, hopping, running and creeping, before a karate session and talk about having played football and soft ball.

Children's awareness and knowledge about healthy eating is encouraged very well. For example, in place of a tuck shop, healthy snacks of fresh fruit are provided for children to purchase from the 'fruit shop' at break times. Children bring their own packed lunch, and are encouraged to be aware of how healthy the foods are they bring in their lunch boxes. Strategies, such as, discussions about healthy foods, a poster on display showing healthy foods and certificates being awarded for the healthiest lunch box, all encourage children to eat healthily. Children have access to drinking water from their own individual drinking bottles, and are reminded to have regular drinks throughout the day. They eat their lunches in the school dining hall, where they sit in small groups at tables and chairs which are set out in advance. However, there are not always sufficient tables and chairs for the numbers of children present. This results in some children waiting to be seated, while staff set out another table and chairs.

There are effective procedures in place to limit the spread of infection. For example, children who are ill or infectious do not attend. Staff monitor hand washing after children have used the toilet and before snack and lunch time, encouraging children to take responsibility for their own personal hygiene.

Appropriate first aid procedures are followed. For example, sufficient staff have current first aid qualifications, and first aid is administered appropriately when children have minor accidents. Information about any accidents or incidents is recorded and shared with parents. In some situations, in addition to written records, parents are informed by phone. Positive strategies, such as, a phone conversation with their parent, reassures children if they are distressed following a minor accident.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, where they are well supervised by staff who are clear about their roles and responsibilities, regarding children's safety. Safe arrangements for arrival and collection of children are in place. For example, children arrive with their parents at the school main gate, which is monitored by a member of staff, who records children's arrival and liaises with parents. Additional staff escort children to their allocated base rooms.

Space is organised well to meet children's needs with indoor base rooms for different age groups, communal halls for indoor activities and games, a swimming pool, and a dining hall where children eat their lunch. Extensive outdoor play space is used for games and activities, such as, using the trampoline and aqua slide. Children are well supervised by staff during activities and when moving from their base rooms to other activities on site; they know they need to walk in a line and hold the doors open for each other. They have great fun singing the

Barracudas song as they walk back to their base rooms after breaks and outdoor activities. Regular fire drills help children become familiar with the procedures, and records show this results in the premises being evacuated quick and safely.

Children are well supervised during activities, such as, swimming. They understand the safety rules they need to follow during such activities, such as, no running and using the steps to get into the pool. Children wear inflatable arm bands, unless they have been assessed as competent swimmers. They know the member of staff wearing the yellow tee shirt is the life guard and that staff are in the pool with them to help them swim and make sure they are safe. However, arrangements for younger children during the preparation for swimming activities do not consistently provide privacy for all children.

Children's welfare is protected by clear written child protection guidelines and procedures. The manager is clear about her role and responsibilities. However, not all staff are fully secure in some areas of knowledge relating to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive, happy and looking forward to their day and are greeted by staff. They enjoy a good range of interesting and well planned sport, games and art and craft activities which they find interesting and exciting. They respond enthusiastically, and are excited when given choices, such as, doing a karate session or using the aqua slide. Children are happy, and say they enjoy their time at the setting. They socialise and chat to each other and staff throughout the day. Children talk about what they like doing and say they enjoy activities, such as, sliding on the aqua slide, jumping on the trampoline, playing with their friends, and having their faces painted.

Staff interact well with the children; they are friendly, approachable and join in children's play and activities making suggestions and giving clear explanations. This helps children to increase their confidence in a large group of children who they may not know well. Staff use planned strategies, such as, ring and group games to encourage all children to participate. Staff are sensitive and support children well in achieving, they recognise when children have done well, awarding stickers of achievement, which encourages children's self esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to participate in the activities provided. This ensures they have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and increase their confidence. Weekly planned events, such as, a World Day, when children can come dressed in different national costumes, help children to learn about diversity and each other. Detailed information is obtained from parents and carers prior to children attending the setting. This results in staff knowing relevant information about the children in their base rooms, enabling them to ensure all children are included and individual needs catered for during the day.

Information is shared well with parents through written information, notices on the parents' notice board and daily verbal feedback from staff. In certain situations, such as, a child being distressed or having an accident, parents are contacted by phone during the day. Parents are happy with the service and feel their children enjoy attending the play scheme.

Children behave well, they are interested and excited by the activities provided. They enjoy the social aspects of the day, when there is time to chat to each other and staff. They make choices about what activities they want to do during certain times of the day. Children's suggestions, for example, for a game of musical statues, are praised which encourages their enjoyment and independence. They have opportunities throughout the day to expend energy through physical activities and in door and outdoor games. Staff are good role models. They are calm and consistent with children, using techniques, such as, counting and using a whistle to gain children's attention when the noise level rises. When disputes do occur, they are quickly and fairly resolved.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place, ensuring staff understand their roles and responsibilities, and know where to record and locate information. Documentation and written records are clear and well organised. Recruitment procedures are in place to ensure staff are suitably vetted and qualified. In-house induction training is provided for all staff covering areas, such as, child protection prior to each play scheme. Most systems relating to child protection are satisfactory.

Staff work well as a team, they communicate well with each other and interact well with children, providing a caring and enjoyable environment and a good range of activities that interest children. Children's health and safety are promoted well, with the exception of a minor weakness relating to changing arrangements for swimming.

Space is organised well to meet children's needs. Overall there is suitable furniture provided, although arrangements at children's lunch time do not ensure there are sufficient tables and chairs set out prior to children arriving in the dining hall. Detailed written information is provided for parents in the form of a company brochure. Information is shared verbally, on a daily basis, and there are notices displayed at the reception area if staff need to see parents for a specific reason. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

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 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):

- make sure sufficient furniture is available for all children to sit and eat comfortably at lunch time
- make sure all staff have a clear understanding of child protection issues
- make sure arrangements for all children during preparation for swimming activities provide privacy.

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