



Barracudas

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY152900
Inspection date	27 July 2005
Inspector	Julie Washer
Setting Address	Bishops Stortford College, Maze Green Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2PJ
Telephone number	01279 838671 or 0845 1235299
E-mail	
Registered person	Young World leisure Group - Barracudas
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Barracudas Holiday Play Scheme is run by Young World Leisure Group. It opened in 2002 and operates from Bishop's Stortford College, using the sports hall, art and craft room, hall, swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, the playing fields and astroturf area. The play scheme has the use of eight classrooms as base rooms. A maximum of 150 children from 4 years to under 8 years may attend at any one time. The play scheme is open five days a week from 08.00 to 18.00 for four weeks during the summer holidays.

There are currently 91 children aged under 8 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 play scheme employs 32 staff including 15 staff working with the children under 8. Six of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. Four staff are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because staff follow highly effective procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. The exceptional adult support and guidance helps children gain an excellent understanding of hygiene and promotes a real desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care. Children wash their hands after going to the toilet and understand why they need to shower before entering the swimming pool.

Children enjoy an extensive range of activities which contribute to their good health and physical fitness. They keenly participate in stimulating planned physical activities on a daily basis both inside and outside. For example, children develop their large physical skills as they play 10 pin bowling, volleyball, cricket, golf and jumping on the trampoline and bouncy castle. Children develop a positive attitude to physical exercise as they delight in the challenges of the versatile range of activities which they tackle enthusiastically.

Children help themselves to easily accessible drinking water and understand why they need to drink after physical exercise. They are encouraged to benefit from well balanced, healthy snacks and meals. Written information available for parents promotes a healthy lifestyle for all, for example, eat a variety of foods, eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables and do not have sugary foods and drinks too often. Children enjoy socialising with their peers in the dining hall at lunch time as they eat their prepared packed lunches they have brought in from home. Children are able to talk about 'good' and 'bad' foods with staff.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are eager to attend and relish their time in the vibrant and safe setting which puts them first. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because staff are extremely vigilant and use thorough risk assessments which are carried out regularly to reduce potential hazards. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits, and how to involve children effectively in organising their environment. This allows children to learn some sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect themselves. For example, children and staff practise the emergency evacuation procedures on a frequent basis. This helps them become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

Children use high quality equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development. They play a dynamic part in the setting. Children are animated and enthusiastic as they make choices and decisions about their activities. They are able to select and access resources easily and staff are vigilant in their monitoring and supervision.

Children are very well protected by staff who have a clear and secure understanding of child protection policies and procedures and give top priority to children's welfare. Ten staff are first aid trained and six staff are epi-pen trained.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are confident, well settled and relaxed in their environment. They are very engrossed in a extensive range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide high levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children play an active part in activities as they offer their own ideas and respond to challenges with great enthusiasm. For example, children delight in acting out a 'chance' relating to their 'Great Balloon Debate' and enjoy drama sessions devising their own plays as they extend their imaginations. Children thrive as they challenge staff on sport questions and impressions. They are animated as they watch a member of staff dance to the Crazy Frog song.

Children try out new skills as they actively take part in a very exciting range of outdoor activities which include, badminton, trampolining, uni-hock, tennis, basketball, karate, orienteering, football, archery, rounders, 10 pin bowling, volleyball, swimming, cricket, golf, lacrosse, hockey and treasure hunts.

Children enjoy dressing up as pirates, singing songs and participating in games relating to their pirate theme. For example, children play a dice game with numbers relating to various actions, such as scrub the deck, man over board and walk the plank. Children's creative development is enhanced through activities such as art and craft and joining in with action songs and rhymes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are warmly welcomed and play a full part in the setting because the staff value and respect their individuality. Staff value the children's contributions and their artwork is displayed. Children's behaviour is exceptional. They are aware of what is expected of them, they are attentive and enjoy each other's company. Through positive role models children learn to listen to each other and acknowledge others contributions. Their self esteem is built through excellent use of praise and encouragement. Children work harmoniously together sharing and waiting patiently to take their turn. Relationships are excellent at all levels which promotes a strong sense of belonging.

All children are encouraged to participate in all developmentally appropriate activities, this ensures children have equal opportunity to maximise their enjoyment and potential. Children with day passes are fully integrated into the setting and are introduced to the groups of children they join.

An effective partnership with parents contributes significantly to the children's well being. Parent's views about their children's needs are actively sought before children commence the play scheme. Parents are provided with verbal daily feedback on their children and what they have been doing. They receive good quality information about the scheme. Parents and children are asked to complete questionnaires to enable the scheme to review its practice.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by exceptional organisation and the outstanding commitment and dedication of the staff. They have a high regard for the well being of all children and the manager and her staff team organises and plans their time to ensure children are positively supported in their care and the activities they participate in.

The play scheme regularly reviews its practice and is committed to improvement and development. The manager carries out evaluations of every member of staff, risk assessments are monitored frequently and questionnaires are sent out to parents and children. Daily staff meetings take place and all staff attend a two day in-house training programme before the summer camp commences.

All policies are comprehensive and fully support the expert practice of knowledgeable and highly skilled staff who consistently give utmost priority to protecting all children, promoting their well-being and supporting all to develop their potential.

The high quality of the provision means that the setting meets the needs of the children who attend extremely well.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection recommended that the play scheme ensured Ofsted was notified of any changes to the premises and areas used. Head Office has notified Ofsted of any changes to the premises relating to the rooms and areas used by the children.

It was also recommended that unchecked persons do not have unsupervised access to the children. This relates to other site users accessing areas used by the scheme. The manager confirmed that children are always closely supervised by members of staff at all times.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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