



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY257626

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/08/2004  
Inspector Name Sheila Harrison

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care  
Setting Name Barracudas Activity Camp  
Setting Address St. Nicholas House, Bunkers Lane  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire  
HP3 8RP

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Young World Leisure Group (trading as Barracudas) 2764956

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Young World Leisure Group (trading as Barracudas)  
Address 23a Bridge Street  
St. Ives  
Cambridgeshire  
PE27 5EH

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

### Information about the setting

Barracudas Activity Camp opened in 2003. It operates from six classrooms, gym and school hall, set within the grounds of an independent school. There is access to the tennis courts and swimming pool. It serves the local and surrounding areas of Hemel Hempstead, St. Albans and Berkhamsted.

There are currently 131 children from 4 to 16 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group opens five days a week during some school holidays. Sessions are from 08:45 until 17:15. Arrangements for extending sessions from 08:00 until 18:00 can be made. The setting currently supports children with special needs.

Eighteen staff work with the children. Over half the staff working with children under eight years have early years qualifications to NVQ 3 or a teaching qualification.

The setting has participated in the 4 Children Aiming High quality assurance scheme.

### How good is the Day Care?

Barracudas Activity Camp provides satisfactory care for children aged 4-8 years.

The camp is held in some of the classrooms, hall and gym of an independent school with use of the extensive grounds, swimming pool and tennis courts. It provides an inviting, secure and safe environment. There is a relevant maintenance system and suitable links with the school. Toilet and changing facilities are adequate but not easily accessible. Staff have a clear understanding of safety issues by undertaking comprehensive risk assessments of the premises and activities, although the potential risks from poisonous plants have not been fully recognised.

The camp has clear documentation systems. Records, policies and procedures are maintained and systems are in place to evaluate the provision. At times the organisation of staff ratios is inadequate. Induction training is in place for the majority of staff and they generally have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They develop their skills and attend available training courses.

Staff are friendly and approachable. They create a relaxed environment in which children pursue a variety of activities that capture their interest. Children are

instructed in the safe conduct of games and in the correct use of equipment.

They undertake physical exercise with time to relax. Staff have a comprehensive manual of ideas for indoor games. However, there are limited resources for protracted periods or when the children are waiting for registration to be completed. Staff have a positive attitude towards behaviour management. They promote the health of the children, ensuring the children apply sufficient sun cream, wear their sun hats and have frequent drinks.

There is information for parents and policies and procedures are made available to them.

### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

This is the first inspection.

### **What is being done well?**

- Staff interact enthusiastically in children's play and take time to talk, listen and ask them questions, giving support and direction when needed. They develop sensitive relationships with the children who are happy and enjoy attending the camp. Children make choices about their play and have fun learning new skills.
- Staff taking swimming and trampoline lessons encourage children to try new activities in a safe and supportive environment. They are positive and respectful of their abilities and value each child for what they have to offer. Staff follow appropriate safety procedures when children use the outside swimming pool.
- The management ensures there is flexibility built into the scheme to allow the children ample choice of activities, to be grouped with friends and children of similar abilities.
- Staff have developed useful communication systems with walkie talkies when staff and children are in the grounds.

### **What needs to be improved?**

- induction procedures and adult and child ratios
- range of suitable resources in the group rooms and for registration times.

### **Outcome of the inspection**

Satisfactory

## **CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION**

*All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.*

*As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.*

## **WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?**

### **The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure sufficient ratios and effective induction procedures are maintained.
5	Increase the range of resources available in the group rooms and during registration periods.

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON**

*Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.*

### **STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION**

*The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.*

### **STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY**

*The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.*

### **STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

*The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.*

### **STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT**

*Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.*

### **STANDARD 6 - SAFETY**

*The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.*

### **STANDARD 7 - HEALTH**

*The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.*

### **STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK**

*Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.*

### **STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.*

### **STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

*The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is*

*proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.*

#### **STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR**

*Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.*

#### **STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

*The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.*

#### **STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION**

*The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.*

#### **STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION**

*Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.*