

Barracudas Activity Camp

Abbotts Hill School, Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 8RP



Inspection date

14 April 2015

Previous inspection date

20 August 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The quality of teaching is good. Skilled and experienced practitioners support children's learning effectively. Children of all ages take part in an extensive range of challenging activities. Staff have easy access to high-quality resources, which for most of the time, are used very effectively to engage and promote children's play and learning.
- Staff receive in-house training to enable them to lead activities, such as archery and use go-karts safely. Staff are excellent role models. They discuss the activities with the children and outline the rules that are in place to keep them safe. Children are learning to recognise and manage risk effectively.
- The camp manager and staff team work very effectively together to plan and provide high-quality play and learning experiences for all children. Effective links with parents mean that children's individual needs are recognised and addressed.
- The camp manager and early years coordinator are well supported by senior members of staff at head office. Children are protected from harm because there is a robust induction process which ensures all staff are fully informed and familiar with the risk assessment and safeguarding procedures.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, children taking part in specialist activities are not fully engaged while waiting for their turn. A lack of resources alongside the ongoing activities means children are not always fully involved.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- review the deployment of resources to ensure children have opportunities to be fully involved in an appropriate activity at all times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a range of activities across the site and the snack and lunch time routines. She talked with the staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of staff members, and a range of other documentation including confirmation of first aid and safeguarding training.
- The inspector held joint discussions with the early years manager in relation to the children's play, learning and progress.
- The inspector held a meeting with the camp manager in relation to general practice, staff appraisals and the running of the camp.
- The inspector reviewed the providers online self-evaluation.

Inspector

Tina Kelly

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

All staff have excellent communication skills. They strive to deliver good quality play and learning experiences for children of all ages. However, at times, staff do not always encourage children to be fully involved when they are waiting to take part in a planned activity. At the start, children attending the camp fill in an All about me form so staff are fully aware of their individual likes, dislikes and previous experiences. In addition to this key staff talk to parents to enable them to support any specific areas of learning. Children gain confidence when playing and being involved with children of different ages. They are beginning to negotiate and take part in discussions about what they want to do and the best way to decide on games and rules they all agree on. Most of the activities are based on sporting skills and physical activity. However, children have the option to be involved in art projects, drama, singing and dance sessions where they can develop their creative skills. Children's pictures are displayed in the base rooms, which builds on children's sense of belonging and self-worth.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff are friendly and very welcoming. They wear uniform t-shirts so that they are easily identifiable. There is a very effective booking and arrival process. Staff talk with parents and children on arrival to ensure personal care needs are addressed. A member of staff welcomes children individually and they are taken to their key groups. Children settle quickly and form secure emotional bonds with their key persons and new friendships with others. Children learn very good personal care routines. Staff manage hand washing at relevant times throughout the day and the use of cloakrooms effectively. Children are supported in their understanding of a healthy lifestyle. Staff promote healthy eating through creative projects and discussions at snack and lunchtimes. Children learn about food that will give them energy for the afternoon activities and to build strong bones.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The leadership and management of both the site and the overall provision are strong. The camp manager has direct online communication with head office. This means he can check details about bookings, children's individual needs and seek advice when needed. Staff receive regular appraisals and head office provide safeguarding and first-aid training as part of the robust induction process. There is a detailed risk assessment for the entire site, with daily checks in place. Staff take responsibility for assessing risks for each of the activities they are responsible for to help to ensure the safety and well-being of the children at all times. Each member of staff has a mobile radio so they can contact the manager or other staff when needed. Most members of staff have worked for Barracudas over many years and they share their experience freely to support new team members. There is a detailed evaluation process in place. This includes a questionnaire for children and parents and a social media page for families to share their views, which enables the camp to make continuous improvements for the children who attend.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY257626
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	992062
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	200
Number of children on roll	111
Name of provider	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Date of previous inspection	20 August 2009
Telephone number	0845 123 5299

Barracudas Activity Camp at Abbots Hill School is one of 34 activity camps run by Young World Leisure Group Limited. This site was registered in 2003. The camp employs 22 members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold an appropriate early years qualifications at level 6. The remaining staff are training as teachers and sports coaches. The group opens from Monday to Friday during the Easter and summer school holidays. Sessions are from 8.30am until 5.30pm with an extended day from 8am until 6pm.

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