

Barracudas Activity Camp

Hutton Manor School, Rayleigh Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 1SD



Inspection date

30 July 2015

Previous inspection date

25 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 camp is well run, as the roles and responsibilities of managers and the group coordinators are clearly defined and understood by all. Key persons working with younger children are well qualified and this means they understand how young children learn.
- Children are happy and independent learners. The camp provides a very welcoming environment which helps children to settle rapidly and build secure attachments with their key persons.
- Very good opportunities are in place for children to engage in a wide and varied range of physical activities. They are enthusiastic in their play and thoroughly enjoy being energetic as they take part in team games and swimming sessions.
- Children behave well and are learning about the needs and feelings of others. Staff interact with children in calm and respectful ways and children mirror this in their interactions with their friends.
- Safeguarding within the camp is effective as staff show vigilance and have a strong awareness of potential hazards. Staff can explain the signs and symptoms of abuse that would alert them if a child was at risk of harm.
- The management of the camp is enthusiastically committed to improving the quality of the provision further. Children and parents are regularly invited to share their views and provide feedback to support the self-evaluation process.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not always making the best use of the space in the environment to ensure that children consistently have the freedom to develop confident and expressive movements during drama sessions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the use of the environment to enhance children's enjoyment of activities and ensure they have ample space for confident and expressive movements.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the early years manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the management, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of the children's records.
- The inspector saw evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their written responses in the comments book.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

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

Staff give children enthusiastic explanations of what is planned each day to encourage their participation. Children enjoy taking part in the range of sporting and creative activities. They have a positive attitude towards learning new things and are keen to extend the skills they also use in the school classroom. Children listen attentively to instructions, ask pertinent questions and offer their own ideas. They extend their mathematical knowledge as they discuss the scores displayed on a target. They work out how many more points they need to win a game. Staff effectively promote children's reading skills in a variety of ways. For example, games are organised to encourage children to name things that begin with letter sounds. Children also write their names on captions and their artwork for display. Staff provide daily communication and feedback by email to ensure parents are kept well informed about the planned activities and their children's progress. Parents are eager to say how impressed they are with the camp and how they really value the care and support their children receive.

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

Children interact warmly with the staff who care for them, and show they feel emotionally secure. Parents provide key information during the registration process and before children start. This gives the key persons good quality information to enable them to provide well for children's individual needs. Staff use physical activities to support children's learning of self-care, safety and understanding of the world. Children learn why it is important to drink water, wear hats and use sun cream in hot weather. There is sufficient space available for children to exercise and develop physical skills. However, staff are not maximising the use of the indoor environments when children take part in drama sessions. Staff effectively manage children's behaviour, which means they fully understand the boundaries and expectations. Children are told about safety in the various areas of the school site and this message is reinforced throughout each day. Prior to every swimming session, children receive a talk about the safety rules around the pool.

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

The management of the camp effectively implement the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Managers and staff take effective measures to minimise risks to children and the premises are secure. There are safe and controlled procedures for children's arrival and departure. Children are collected by parents or carers, with confirmation of the password and key fob identification. There are sufficient staff with first-aid certificates on the premises to deal with minor accidents or emergencies. The manager and Barracudas' head office complete regular audits of accident records and risk assessments are reviewed following any incidents. Staff's professional development is well supported through regular performance reviews, supervision meetings and training. The staff constantly reflect on their practice and this means that there is continuous improvement in children's learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY222697
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	992060
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 17
Total number of places	200
Number of children on roll	141
Name of provider	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Date of previous inspection	25 August 2009
Telephone number	0845 123 5299

Barracudas Activity Camp was registered in 2002 and is part of a large chain of activity camps run by Young World Leisure Group Limited. The camp employs 24 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven staff hold Qualified Teacher Status. Specialist staff, such as lifeguards and sports instructors, also work with the children. The camp opens from Monday to Friday, during the school Easter and summer holidays. Opening times are from 8am until 6pm.

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