

Barracudas Activity Camp

Bishops Stortford College, Maze Green Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2PJ



Inspection date	6 August 2015
Previous inspection date	21 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

- Staff are aware of all children's needs, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. As a result, care is precisely tailored to meet each child's individual needs and backgrounds.
- Children are confident and show high levels of self-esteem. They enjoy receiving consistent praise and recognition from staff for their achievements.
- Robust recruitment means that the provider undertakes suitability checks on all staff. This helps to ensure that they are safe to work with children.
- Staff display a good knowledge and understanding of how to safeguard the children in their care. They understand what signs to look out for and know what to do should they have any concerns about a child.
- Children develop good hand-eye coordination as they excitedly learn how to steer an electric go-kart around a circuit. They show high levels of concentration as they listen to and then work out how to follow staff's instructions. As a result, children learn how to skilfully manoeuvre the go-kart, weaving in and out of a series of cones.
- Children enjoy taking part in craft activities. For example, they use their creative skills to make attractive collages out of items that they found earlier on a nature walk with staff.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not supported as well as they could be to help them consistently develop close relationships with their key person.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the key-person system to help children develop an even closer relationship with staff.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed general play and the children's snack time routine.
- The inspector talked with the manager, members of staff and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability checks for all members of staff, and a range of other documentation. First-aid and safeguarding training certificates were seen.
- The inspector held a joint observation with the manager in relation to observations of the children's play, learning and progress.
- The inspector reviewed the setting's self-evaluation document.

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

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

Staff show a good understanding of children's needs and how to adapt activities to suit all levels of ability. Therefore, children enjoy a broad range of exciting learning opportunities which stimulate their curiosity. This helps to motivate them to build on what they already know and can do. Children have the opportunity to swim, play tennis or go for a nature walk in local woodland. They clearly have fun using their imagination and physical skills as they take part in dance and drama sessions. They show that they are developing a good level of understanding, as they follow both simple and more complex instructions. Children show their ability to concentrate as they focus intently, listening to clues given by staff to work out what animal is being described. They successfully make corresponding animal sounds. Children demonstrate good physical skills as they move in a wide variety of ways. For example, they hiss like a snake as they slither and roll along the floor. Children share their ideas with staff and peers during lots of interesting discussions. They learn about taking turns in conversation and listening to the opinions of others.

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

Children's confidence is nurtured as they achieve and develop the skills needed to support them in nursery or school. For example, they learn skills which help them to undertake personal care tasks. Key people help children to form secure attachments and promote their well-being and independence. However, the high volume of children allocated to each key person does not make it easy for children to develop these relationships to the optimum. Children's base rooms are organised to ensure that they can easily help themselves to toys and resources. Consequently, when they spend time in these rooms, children confidently make choices about what activities they would like to take part in. Children behave well and are able to take turns and share resources with their peers. Children take part in activities and learn about keeping themselves safe. They know that they must use safety equipment to protect them when it is their turn to drive the go-kart around a circuit.

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

The setting's team of well-qualified staff has a positive impact on the service provided for children. Regular training ensures that they maintain a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how to use this in their daily practice. The manager ensures that staff's ongoing practice and all required documentation are monitored and maintained effectively. This helps towards promoting the smooth and safe daily running of the service provided. The provider and manager are committed to ensuring the continuous development of the setting. They hold daily conversations and provide questionnaires at the end of each holiday scheme to find out the views of both parents and children. This feedback, along with that of staff, is used effectively to set targets for future improvement and development of the service.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY152900
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	992059
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 16
Total number of places	270
Number of children on roll	253
Name of provider	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Date of previous inspection	21 August 2009
Telephone number	0845 1235299

Barracudas Activity Camp was registered in 2002. The setting employs 32 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold Qualified Teacher Status and 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The holiday scheme opens for two weeks during the Easter holidays and five weeks during the school summer holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm.

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