

Barracudas (Huntingdon)

Hinchingbrooke School, Brampton Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 3BN



Inspection date

17 August 2017

Previous inspection date

31 July 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children enjoy an outstanding range of stimulating experiences, including a vast number of sporting activities. They are enthusiastic, motivated and have a wonderful time at the setting.
- Children's safety is given the highest priority. All the activities are thoroughly assessed to minimise any hazards. More risky activities, such as archery, are expertly supervised by skilled and well-trained specialist staff.
- The partnerships with parents are exceptional. Parents praise the camp staff for their comprehensive understanding of their children's needs and interests. They are very well informed about their children's experiences.
- Staff quickly build highly effective relationships with the children. They have high expectations of children's behaviour and are excellent role models. Children are ably coached, supported and praised. This helps to boost their confidence and self-esteem.
- The experienced and dedicated management team strives to provide top quality experiences for all children. Highly qualified managers lead enthusiastic and skilled staff who have an excellent understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- Constant evaluation of staff performance and how they deliver the activities helps managers to continually broaden and enhance children's exciting play opportunities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider further ways to enhance younger children's opportunities to extend their independence and do things for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children during their activities. She spoke with children and staff at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the area manager.
- The inspector looked at the campsite and the resources available to the children.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day. She looked at the camp's self-evaluation document and discussed this with managers.
- The inspector had meetings with the camp managers and looked at a selection of documents. These included evidence of staff suitability, training records and children's records.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff receive detailed training on safeguarding issues and the local safeguarding procedures. They fully understand their role to protect children and promote their welfare. Thorough recruitment procedures and initial training helps to ensure staff are eminently suitable to carry out their responsibilities. The management team provides excellent professional development opportunities for staff. This enables them to progress in the company and learn skills that are useful in their other professions. Senior staff are very well qualified and all have considerable experience. Children receive superb, skilled support so they can make the most of all the activities on offer. Staff teach children about safe boundaries and supervise them effectively as they move around the site. Children have an excellent understanding of safe behaviour and meticulously follow the rules.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children benefit from an exceptional, well-planned programme of activities. Periods of intense physical activity are perfectly balanced with creative activities and times to relax and play quietly. Challenging activities, such as riding quad bikes, inspires children to have a go at new things. Staff support the children as they play and ask questions that encourage their thinking skills. For example, they help children to speculate how many blocks they can stack and how they can build a taller and safer structure. Children effectively build on the skills they learn at school. They confidently write captions on their pictures and add their names to the attendance register. Staff encourage them to count out loud and measure their party hats so they are a good fit. Children's physical coordination is enhanced through enjoyable activities, such as foam fencing. Staff observe and record children's achievements so their successes can be shared with parents and school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The camp is organised superbly to provide children with a friendly and welcoming environment. Staff greet children cheerfully as they arrive and help them to settle into their key groups. They have enormously good relationships with the children and are playful and good humoured. Children build excellent friendships, welcoming their friends from previous camps. Children new to the camp have a more experienced 'buddy' to show them the routines and help them to find their way around. Staff gather extensive information from parents about the children before they join the camp. This helps them to assess children's needs and carefully tailor the activity programme. Managers continue to consider ways to enhance children's independence skills and enable them to take a greater role in planning and preparing their activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	259646
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1103389
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	4 - 14
Total number of places	232
Number of children on roll	392
Name of registered person	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900856
Date of previous inspection	31 July 2014
Telephone number	0845 1235299

Barracudas (Huntingdon) registered in 1995. It is one of a number of holiday camps run by Young World Leisure Group Ltd. The club employs 32 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold qualified teacher status. Staff working with the early years children hold appropriate qualifications at level 3. The rest of the staff have a mixture of sports qualifications and some are trainee teachers. The camp operates Monday to Friday, during Easter, summer holidays and some half terms. Opening times are from 8am to 6pm.

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