

Barracudas (Barnet)

Queen Elizabeths School, Queens Road, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN5 4DQ



Inspection date

21 August 2017

Previous inspection date

4 April 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Leaders do not ensure that all information in regards to the suitability of staff is easily accessible, meets current requirements and is available for inspection. This hinders the ability to closely check that vetting processes are thorough and robust.
- Occasionally staff do not adhere strictly to the company's policies and procedures to keep children safe. For example, policies about staff's use of mobile phones and medication administration.
- The organisation of group times is sometimes too long. This occasionally leads to children getting bored and not participating fully.
- At times, staff miss opportunities to further enhance children's experiences of sensory play.

It has the following strengths

- Children enjoy their time at the holiday club. They benefit from a range of activities, indoors and outdoors, and are confident to join in.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff are positive role models and support children to develop their own club rules. This helps children to know what is expected of them and build friendships with each other.
- Parents speak positively about the club. They say their children enjoy attending and that they are kept informed about their child's day.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
■ ensure that documents are easily accessible for inspection and meet current requirements, with particular to those relating to suitability of staff	23/03/2018
■ improve the staff's understanding of their roles and their responsibilities to adhere to the clubs own policies and procedures at all times.	23/03/2018

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

- review the organisation of group times to sustain children's interest and concentration
- enhance the range of opportunities to encourage children's exploration in sensory play experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors spent the majority of time observing children in the playrooms, halls, swimming pool and playing fields.
- The inspectors sampled documentation including children's records and staff suitability checks.
- The inspectors held discussions with the provider, manager and staff.
- The lead inspector completed a joint observation with the early years manager.
- The inspectors spoke to a sample of parents to obtain their views on the club.

Inspectors

Jennifer Devine / Nataliia Moroz

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Safeguarding is effective. Staff complete an induction programme before the camp begins which includes relevant safeguarding training. The managers and staff are aware of the procedures they must follow if they have any concerns about a child. Staff undergo suitability checks before commencing their employment. However, most of these records, are held at head office and on the day of inspection were not easily accessible. For example, staff references were not available to help ascertain whether recruitment processes are robust. Although staff are made aware of the company's policies and procedures, occasionally they do not precisely adhere to these. For example, on the day of inspection staff used a mobile phone to play music for a dance session. The procedure for the administration of medication was not followed on one occasion. However, managers acted promptly to address these breaches of requirements when raised by the inspector. Managers take action to address any concerns raised to ensure children's overall welfare and safety is suitably monitored and maintained.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The early years manager is enthusiastic and regularly monitors the quality of staff's interaction with children. Staff provide lots of opportunities for children to have fun during their school holidays. They are kept busy and occupied as they move around the camp, enjoying experiences such as dancing, go-karts, foam fencing and jumping on the bouncy castle. The outdoor playing field provides a challenging range of physical play activities and is well used to help children to be active. All children enjoy running around in the fresh air and playing team games.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Although there are some weaknesses in leadership and management, these do not have a significant impact on children's overall welfare. Children are provided with a welcoming and stimulating environment that encourages them to play. Staff get to know the children and support them to settle and feel secure. Staff talk to children about healthy options during meal and snack times. Children help themselves to drinks of water or have their own drinks throughout the day. They know to wash their hands before eating or after using the toilet. Children learn aspects of how to stay safe during their day at the club. For instance, every week they take part in a fire drill practice so they understand about the importance of evacuating the premises quickly and know where to line up on the field.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY258083
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	1111579
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 - 15
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900856
Date of previous inspection	4 April 2016
Telephone number	0845 123 5299

Barracudas (Barnet) registered in 2003. It is one of a chain of privately run holiday schemes owned and operated by Barracudas. It operates from a purpose-built, secondary school building, in High Barnet in the London Borough of Barnet. The activity camp operates each weekday during summer and Easter school holidays from 8am to 6pm. The provider employs 35 staff. Nine staff work with children in the early years age range.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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