

Barracudas (Watford)

Watford Grammar School for Boys, Rickmansworth Road, WATFORD
WD18 7JF



Inspection date	14 August 2018
Previous inspection date	13 August 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is outstanding

- Children's confidence is nurtured exceptionally well. Staff support them very effectively to achieve and develop excellent social skills, such as resolving difficulties and discussing their play ideas.
- Rigorous daily safety checks are carried out to ensure that the environment remains safe and secure. Parents speak very highly of the club, stating that it is extremely well organised and that their children thoroughly enjoy attending.
- Staff develop purposeful communications with parents, other professionals and staff at local schools. This helps to promote excellent continuity of care when meeting children's needs.
- Children thoroughly enjoy exciting activities, such as water play and mini Olympics, discovering that exercise is fun. Staff make exceptionally good use of these opportunities to promote children's awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- Staff recruitment procedures are extremely robust. All necessary checks are carried out to ensure that adults working with children are and remain suitable to do so.
- Exceptional opportunities enable children to increase their knowledge of how to keep themselves safe. They learn how the special suits they wear when go-karting help to protect their bodies.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- inspire children even more to explore and express their talent, flair and creativity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of staff interaction and play during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's development.
- The inspector observed practice and discussed this with the early years manager.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the camp manager, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children.
- The inspector discussed with the area and camp managers how they reflect on practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through feedback they shared with the camp staff.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The provider makes sure that all members of staff and camp managers complete relevant training. This ensures that they all thoroughly understand their specific roles and responsibilities. Staff have an extremely good understanding of how to protect children. They talk knowledgeably about the signs that may identify a cause for concern about a child's welfare. Staff know how to report concerns without delay. Excellent training is given in relation to first aid, health and safety. This helps to ensure that all members of staff know how to minimise risk when organising activities. They are confident about what action to take in the event of an emergency. Managers at the camp meet with their qualified and experienced staff daily to monitor and support ongoing practice. Parents, children and staff share their views regularly through discussion and various written feedback processes. This helps the provider to reflect extremely closely on the service offered and identify areas for continuous improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan and provide excellent opportunities for children to make independent choices about their play. Children are supported remarkably well by a very enthusiastic staff team. They are exceptionally motivated and eagerly take part in the very wide range of play opportunities. Children enjoy energetic physical play that involves them using a wide range of movements. For example, they learn how to use an array of sports equipment and thoroughly enjoy expressing themselves through music and drama. Children have great fun using soft play and driving go-karts. They recreate real and imagined experiences. They make pretend meals in their play café or take care of sick animals at the vet centre. There is a very wide range of craft activities on offer. Staff have identified that they can continue to explore further innovative creative opportunities that engage children. Children demonstrate that they are developing good problem-solving skills. They create three-dimensional models from clay and work out the best way to make a sock or glove puppet.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children make friends and build very secure attachments, which helps to support their well-being and independence exceptionally well. They are extremely polite, well behaved and know how to share resources and play in harmony. Children follow instructions during games and use their excellent vocabulary to organise and check the rules. Staff are extremely well deployed. They effectively build children's self-esteem through consistent praise and encouragement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY440501
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10067657
Type of provision	Out-of-school day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	4 - 14
Total number of places	156
Number of children on roll	121
Name of registered person	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900856
Date of previous inspection	13 August 2015
Telephone number	0845 123 5299

Barracudas (Watford) registered in 2011. The setting operates Monday to Friday, for six weeks each year, during the Easter and summer school holidays. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. There are 35 members of staff. Of these, six hold Qualified Teacher Status, one holds Early Years Teacher Status and all other staff hold appropriate qualifications at level 1 or above.

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