

Inspection date	16 August 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

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

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- Children demonstrate that they feel exceptionally safe and secure in the welcoming environment that staff create. They confidently speak to authorised visitors about the exciting activities they have participated in and invite them to join in their play.
- The highly qualified staff team inspires children to build on their understanding of a healthy lifestyle and the impact of exercise of their body. Following a music and movement session, children learn about how blood carries oxygen around their body. They assess how their heart rate has changed following exercise.
- Staff provide a rich range of activities and experiences. Children express a keen interest in the building work being carried out on the premises. Staff make the most of this spontaneous event. Children observe the different types of construction vehicles and talk about why the builders need to use a range of materials for different purposes.
- The management team strives for excellence and continuously reflects on the service the camp provides. It actively seeks the views of staff, children and parents. Good practice from other camps within the group is shared with staff daily. This helps to introduce new ideas and activities.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently fully inform all parents about their children's achievements and the range of planned activities on offer in advance.
- Occasionally, staff do not fully consider the needs of all children when planning sport activities to provide them with very good opportunities to take part.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the information provided to parents about their children's achievements and range of activities, to strengthen the link between home and the camp
- review the arrangement of some planned sporting activities to inspire all children to join in.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the activities indoors and the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector talked to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the camp manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and area manager of the camp. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the camp.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare or development. Risk assessments are used well to help reduce hazards. Staff deploy themselves well and have children's safety at the heart of everything they do. A robust induction system supports staff to be clear about their roles and responsibilities. Staff receive good training opportunities. Recent training has increased staff's knowledge of safely introducing even more exciting outdoor activities. Staff receive regular supervision meetings with the management team. A collaborative approach is adopted to support staff to continue to build on their skills and knowledge. Parents comment that their children 'adore attending' the camp and it is clear that staff are 'very happy carrying out their roles'.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff create a strong sense of anticipation and excitement as they introduce activities to children. This motivates children to listen carefully. For example, they concentrate as they clap their hands together and on different parts of their body to copy a rhythm. Children eagerly take turns to be the 'rhythm master' and make up their own rhythm. They move their bodies with control and coordination in response to the different tempos of music. Children explore the texture of clay with their hands. They discover how to use water effectively to create a smooth surface. Children use their vivid imaginations to mould the clay. They respond well to staff's use of questioning and describe the intricate features of their models and why they have added such detail. Children thoroughly enjoy challenging activities. They persevere to build a tower out of paper and various structures using marshmallows and dried spaghetti.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The qualified and highly experienced staff team shows that it has an excellent understanding of helping children to build on their key skills. Staff place a very high priority on supporting children's personal development. They are excellent role models and children's behaviour is exemplary. Children show that they have the utmost respect for each other and build exceptionally strong friendships within a short period. They recognise and praise each other for their achievements. Children show very high levels of independence for their age. They take great responsibility of their personal belongings and confidently assess their own risks. Staff invest time to build superb relationships with all children. Despite the relatively short period that children attend, key persons have a meticulous knowledge of children's interests and individual personalities, which they share with all staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY501134
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10059785
Type of provision	Out-of-school day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	4 - 14
Total number of places	200
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	Not applicable
Telephone number	0845 123 5299

Barracudas is one of 42 holiday activity day camps that is registered under Young World Leisure Group Limited. The St Albans camp registered in 2016. It is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for four weeks during the summer school holidays, excluding bank holidays. There are 31 members of staff. Of these, ten hold level 3 qualification or above.

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