

Barracudas (Upminster)

Coopers' & Coborn School, St. Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS



Inspection date	22 July 2019
Previous inspection date	29 July 2015

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff deployment is well thought out and the skills of highly qualified staff are utilised extremely well.
- The strong management team works hard to ensure activities are accessible to children during the course of the weekly schedule. They are passionate about working with parents to sensitively meet the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They provide an inclusive environment successfully.
- Children excitedly talk about developing new skills, such as circus skills and learning to drive go-karts. Young children enjoy opportunities to access the swimming pool and channel their energy successfully. The wonderful array of activities on offer support children to develop their physical skills well. Children are happy and enjoy their experiences at the camp.
- Staff praise children's efforts and achievements. They successfully support them to encourage one another during team activities. This contributes to building children's self-esteem well. They have a positive attitude to learning and are motivated to explore new challenges.
- Occasionally, staff do not convey clear messages about the boundaries in place and their expectations of children. They do not consistently ensure that children understand what is expected of them at the start of activities.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to help young children learn the names of staff and form early relationships.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that children are clear about boundaries and rules before activities begin to help them fully engage at all times
- find age-appropriate ways to help young children learn the names of staff, to help build even stronger relationships with adults in their group.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities, play and the quality of interactions between staff and children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector and early years manager carried out a joint observation of an outdoor activity.
- The inspector held discussions with management, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, policies and procedures, staff qualifications and required insurance.

Inspector

Leanne Stranger

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of the signs and symptoms of potential abuse. They know the procedures to follow to escalate concerns about a child's well-being. A thorough induction process helps to equip the staff team to deliver sessions at a high standard. An ongoing robust programme of professional development supports staff to continually improve practice and deliver a wide range of activities and experiences effectively. Management is reflective and includes the views of parents and children to evaluate practice. They accurately identify strengths and areas to develop within the camp, such as enhancing their calm resting areas for children to unwind in. They ensure that continual reflection supports them to meet children's ongoing needs. For example, they identify the need to raise parents' awareness of the upcoming heatwave and ensure extra health and safety measures are put into place.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff interact well with children and build on their communication and language skills successfully. Enthusiastic staff deliver dance and drama sessions. This helps children think creatively and extend their imaginative skills well. Staff use information gained from parents before children start to help build a clear picture of children's interests and capabilities. This helps them plan successfully from the outset. Staff support children to make choices and provide a good mixture of adult-led and child-initiated activities. For instance, children choose to complete word-matching puzzles, engage in turn-taking games and explore 'wacky locks' in the role-play hair salon. Children are completely engrossed as they glue pom-poms, feathers and googly eyes to their 'crazy socks' creations during craft sessions. This contributes to developing children's hand-eye coordination well. Children enjoy opportunities to express themselves freely.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create an engaging environment that helps children to settle well overall. Staff are vigilant and ensure that from the start of day one all children experience and understand the fire evacuation procedure. Children enjoy a tour of the venue to help them become familiar with their surroundings. This contributes to building children's enthusiasm for the sessions ahead. Staff talk to children about the hot weather and remind them of the importance of caring for their bodies successfully. Children independently refill their water bottle at drinks stations. They enjoy opportunities to develop their self-care skills. Staff talk with children during mealtimes about what is in their lunch box and the benefit of fruit. They promote healthy lifestyles well. Some older children have been attending the camp on a regular basis for many years and speak highly of the fantastic experiences they consistently have.

Setting details

Unique reference number	118594
Local authority	Havering
Inspection number	10112708
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children	4 - 14
Total number of places	280
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900856
Date of previous inspection	29 July 2015
Telephone number	01480 467 567

Barracudas (Upminster) registered in 2001. The activity camp is located in the Coopers and Coburn School in Upminster, in the London Borough of Havering. The provision employs 24 members of staff. Of these, four hold qualified teacher status and three hold an early years teacher qualification. The provision opens from Monday to Friday during the Easter and summer holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm.

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