

Barracudas (Hutton)

Woodlands School at Hutton Manor, 428 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1SD



Inspection date	31 July 2019
Previous inspection date	30 July 2015

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

- Children at this setting show that they feel emotionally secure. For example, they happily move from one activity to another and enjoy spending time holding a wide range of conversations with staff and their friends.
- Risk assessments are carried out for all activities and areas used by children. This helps the manager and his staff to identify and minimise hazards effectively. Safety checks are maintained throughout the day by the manager.
- Children are provided with consistent messages about safety. This helps them to develop a very good understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe. Children are eager to share their understanding with others, individually and in group situations.
- Parents speak positively about the setting and say that they are very happy with the service provided. They describe staff as friendly and attentive towards their children. Parents talk about what a 'fantastic holiday camp' it is and how their children have asked if they can come 'extra days'.
- The manager and his staff reflect on practice. This helps them to make informed decisions about what changes they would like to implement to drive consistent improvement.
- Children are not always able to choose additional resources to extend their independent play and thinking, for instance during creative play and when they are not engaged in timetabled activities.
- Staff do not routinely collect information from parents about their children's interests and preferences when they first attend.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- promote opportunities to extend children's independent play and thinking
- seek more detailed information from parents when children first start, to further consider their preferences and interests.

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 setting's lead person for early years. She also held discussions about staff practice with the manager.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector also discussed with the manager how he reflects on practice.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through discussion and written feedback at inspection.

Inspector
Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures that safeguarding measures are implemented effectively. Staff are provided with appropriate training and clear information about what to do if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff are deployed well across the setting, helping to further promote children's safety. Procedures for children's arrival and departure are very good. Parents and carers are required to provide the correct password and identity card to authorise children's collection. Accident records are maintained, and regular reviews are carried out to further inform risk assessments. Staff's professional development is supported well through a training programme undertaken before each holiday scheme. Senior staff's ongoing monitoring and constructive feedback mean that staff are consistently supported to develop and improve their ongoing practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff encourage children's participation in activities. They start each day ensuring that children are made aware of what activities are on offer. Staff talk this through and use a written and visual timetable to support children's understanding. Children are keen to take part in a wide range of physical play and creative activities. They learn new skills, such as fencing with foam swords and swimming. Children become immersed in storytelling activities. Staff skilfully use intonation to capture their attention and ask children pertinent questions linked to the story. Children in another base room go on a nature walk which is linked to a story about the 'Gruffalo'. They hunt to see if they can find items or animals that are in the story. Parents are kept well informed about what activities their children participate in each day. Children have plenty of fun playing in the swimming pool. They use floats to develop their balance as they move through the water. Those children who are confident swimmers dive down to retrieve weights from the bottom of the pool.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are motivated to learn about healthy eating. For example, they are encouraged to take part in discussions about vegetables that they like to eat in the club and at home. Those children who bring a healthy snack are delighted to be awarded a certificate in recognition of this. Children are very well behaved. They demonstrate clearly that they understand boundaries and the expectations of staff. Children show a sense of pride in their achievements, for instance when they swim across the width of the pool. Parents are required to provide staff with information about their children's allergies and other medical needs. This is passed to key persons, who ensure that each child's care needs are appropriately met.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY222697
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10062936
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	170
Number of children on roll	510
Name of registered person	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900856
Date of previous inspection	30 July 2015
Telephone number	01480 467 567

Barracudas (Hutton) registered in 2002 and is part of a large chain of activity camps run by Young World Leisure Group Limited. The setting employs 39 members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold early years qualifications at level 5 and above. Specialist staff, such as lifeguards and sports instructors, also work with the children. The setting operates from Monday to Friday during the Easter and summer holidays. Opening times are from 8am until 6pm.

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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