

# Inspection of Barracudas (Hutton)

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

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Inspection date: 10 April 2025

**The quality and  
standards of early  
years provision**

**This  
inspection**

**Met**

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Previous  
inspection

Good

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **This provision meets requirements**

Happy, caring and attentive staff warmly greet children on arrival. Large inflatables and familiar children's music is played, which helps create a fun, exciting and welcoming entrance for children. Even the youngest children, and those attending for the first time, leave their parents with ease. They demonstrate an eagerness and enthusiasm to get started on their chosen activities. Children are well supported and supervised as they settle in their base rooms. They have storage for their personal belongings and staff help them organise themselves. Children self-register and their art work and creations are displayed, which creates a sense of belonging. Staff are reassuring and ensure children feel safe and happy and, as a result, children settle quickly.

Children start their day with a group discussion. They interact in the conversation as they discuss the expectations and safety rules of club and the activities available to them throughout the day. Emphasis is given to assuring children's welfare, and in particular the youngest attending, to ensure their individual needs are fully met. Children are grouped into appropriate age groups. Young children have established warm and trusting bonds with their key staff members. Children's behaviour is very good. They sit comfortably and relaxed as they make 'ocean super heroes'. They use a variety of creative resources available to them and engage visitors to the club in conversation about sea life, and the importance of caring for the environment.

### **What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?**

- Children's personal information is gathered through a secure online booking system and enables parents to share appropriate information about their child. This includes any dietary needs, allergies or medication and any additional support their children may require. Children are also invited to complete an 'All About Me' flag about their likes and dislikes and is displayed within their base room, to ensure continuity of care for the children attending.
- Parents speak highly of the holiday club and their children's experience. They comment that they welcome the electronic system in place to ensure children's safety on collection. They say their children are keen to attend and enjoy the variety of activities available to them. Parents say communication is good and staff are approachable and welcoming.
- Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the swimming pool, which is a popular choice. Trained and qualified life guards, and club staff members ensure stringent policies about safety are adhered to. Children giggle as they play games in the water and speak enthusiastically and with excitement about the pool sessions.
- Children's safety is paramount. For example, all staff have a clear knowledge and

understanding of how to safeguard children's welfare. Stringent risk assessments are completed for all indoor activities and the multi-sports experiences provided. Staff explain the rules of the games and remind children how to stay safe. Children listen intently and show an eagerness to take part. The day is very well organised and packed with a programme of activities that children choose. For example, they participate in archery lessons, led by skilled and trained staff. Children understand the need for appropriate clothing and listening and following the instructions. They are thrilled with the praise they receive when they hit the target.

- Managers receive strong support from the leadership team, who are also very hands on. The management team are organised and professional and value their team of staff. A stringent recruitment process, induction programme, training and support ensures staff are confident in their role and are fully equipped to care for the children attending.
- Many staff return each season and some also work at the host school and, therefore, are familiar to children who regularly attend. The staff speak positively of their roles, are motivated and genuinely care about the children in their care. They feel supported and valued and have access to an online training programme. Ongoing training is positively encouraged to build on their existing knowledge. Staff practice is also observed and monitored regularly to ensure it meets the high expectations of the club.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

## Setting details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Unique reference number</b>                     | EY222697  |
| <b>Local authority</b>                             | Essex   |
| <b>Inspection number</b>                           | 10388812  |
| <b>Type of provision</b>                           | Childcare on non-domestic premises  |
| <b>Registers</b>                                   | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register |
| <b>Day care type</b>                               | Out-of-school day care  |
| <b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b> | 4 to 14   |
| <b>Total number of places</b>                      | 45  |
| <b>Number of children on roll</b>                  | 90  |
| <b>Name of registered person</b>                   | Young World Leisure Group Limited   |
| <b>Registered person unique reference number</b>   | RP900856  |
| <b>Telephone number</b>                            | 01480 467 567   |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b>                 | 31 July 2019  |

## Information about this early years setting

Barracudas (Hutton) registered in 2002. The club is open Monday to Friday, from 8am until 6pm, during Easter and summer holidays. The club employs nine members of staff. Of these, three have qualified teacher status.

## Information about this inspection

**Inspector**  
Lynn Hartigan

## Inspection activities

- The regional manager showed the inspector around the club and explained how the play environment is organised.
- The inspector had several discussions with the regional manager and the camp managers to explore leadership and management issues.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the provider's documentation, including policies and procedures and training certificates.
- Parents told the inspector what they thought about the provision and staff, and their views were considered.
- The children told the inspector about what they like to do when they are at the club.

We carried out this inspection 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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