

Barracudas Activity Camp

Sherrardswood School, 3 Lockleys, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL6 0BJ



Inspection date

8 April 2015

Previous inspection date

17 August 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The quality of teaching is good. Staff provide an exciting range of activities and learning opportunities. These engage children's interest and complement their knowledge and understanding. Children integrate successfully with a wide range of ages. This means that younger children are inspired by the abilities of the older children.
- Children's confidence and physical skills are highly prioritised through an extensive choice of activities. All ages participate in exciting new challenges, such as motor sports, team and group sports. Children's ideas and creativity are supported through making rockets, pirate ships and by individually creating pictures, posters and models to display around their age-appropriate base rooms.
- The manager and staff have high aspirations and they strive to deliver high-quality learning experiences for children. They are very effective in accurately monitoring and evaluating the already good practice. This enables the group to identify and meet children's needs very well.
- Regular training and monitoring of staff ensures that children's welfare and safeguarding are prioritised while teaching children how to manage risks safely.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, staff do not use open-ended questions or give children the time to think and respond in their own way.
- Children are not always made aware of the health hazards that storing their lunch boxes in direct sunlight may have on their food.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the careful use of questions and give children sufficient time to think and respond with their own ideas
- ensure that all food and drink are stored and transported safely.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to, and interacted with, a selection of staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at the environment, resources and equipment provided and how effectively they are used to support children's play and learning.
- The inspector examined a selection of information and documentation relating to the suitability of adults, children's safeguarding, welfare and progress.
- The inspector toured all areas indoor and outdoor and discussed staff performance and monitoring with the manager.

Inspector

Susan Parker

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The enthusiastic staff team provide high-quality activities and they complement the Early Years Foundation Stage effectively. They gather information from the parents and the children about what they like and can do. In addition, any areas of learning with which they need additional help with are discussed. For example, some parents request additional help with scissor skills for their children. This is effectively incorporated into the activities for the children. Children benefit from an extensive range of activities, which are mostly based around their physical skills. For example, they learn archery skills and are well tutored on using an electric go-cart. As a result, children develop high levels of confidence and they are very well motivated. Children's ideas, views and opinions are valued and they proudly decorate their base rooms, which gives them a sense of responsibility and belonging.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

The staff are friendly and welcoming, which enables them to form appropriate bonds and attachments with the children. Care practices are good and children display good levels of confidence and emotional well-being. They display appropriate levels of personal independence and social skills. The exciting activities on offer provide children with the self-motivation to follow the rules to enjoy the activities and equipment safely. As a result, children's behaviour is impeccable. Effective links with parents ensure that children's care routines and well-being are supported. Children are well supervised and learn good safety habits, which gives them skills to enable them to move on to full time school with confidence. Staff are clear and confident about the action they would take if they have any concern about children's health, safety and welfare.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Senior managers in the group headquarters oversee the manager and staff. Regular staff observations and evaluations keep the activities fresh. These are effectively linked to the requirements for early years children. Staff are well supervised and ongoing training is given throughout the sessions. This enables them to continue to provide complementary teaching for children. All staff are employed through a robust recruitment and induction process. They are mentored by experienced staff and continue to expand their own understanding. Risk assessments are carried out regularly and any hazards are addressed as soon as they become evident. For example, staff minimise the risk of their own hot drinks near children by providing themselves with a suitable staff break area. The manager and staff deliver the safeguarding and welfare requirements to a good level. All staff, children and parents' views are sought in evaluating the activities and sessions provided. As a result, the group adapts the activities and equipment to meet the needs, requests and ideas which have been highlighted through successful self-evaluation.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY257417
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	992061
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	200
Number of children on roll	120
Name of provider	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Date of previous inspection	17 August 2009
Telephone number	0845 123 5299

Barracudas Activity Camp is one of 27 activity camps run by Young World Leisure Group Limited. It was registered in 2007. The group employs 22 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and the remaining staff are training as teachers and sports coaches. The group opens from Monday to Friday during the Easter and summer school holidays. Sessions are from 8.30am until 5.30pm.

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