

Barracudas (Bishop's)

Bishops Stortford College, Maze Green Road, Bishops Stortford,
Hertfordshire CM23 2PJ



Inspection date	22 August 2019
Previous inspection date	6 August 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

- Managers provide staff with a good induction programme. This helps them to fully prepare for their roles. Passionate managers value staff's ideas and contributions. They recognise staff's strengths and utilise these well. For instance, they place staff who have experience within early years with the youngest children. Staff work well together and morale is high.
- Children settle quickly and confidently turn to staff for help when they need to. Staff are kind and friendly and they speak respectfully to the children. This helps staff and children to form strong bonds with one another over the time they are together.
- Staff offer children a wide variety of opportunities to play and have fun. Children freely choose the activities they wish to complete. For example, they enjoy participating in activities such as swimming.
- Staff are vigilant about children's safety. They complete ongoing risk assessments throughout the day. Staff receive specific training to ensure that children are supported appropriately during certain activities, such as fencing.
- Children are not always fully focused during planned activities as they are sometimes still completing routine tasks, such as applying sun cream.
- Occasionally, there are not enough resources provided for children to implement their creative ideas effectively.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review and develop further the organisation of daily routines to enable children to make best use of planned activities
- maximise the resources available to support children to develop and implement their creative ideas effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the premises used by the playscheme indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held discussions with parents and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and managers observed staff interactions with children during a range of planned activities.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including policies and staff suitability documents.

Inspector

Jennifer Hardy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are aware of the signs to look out for regarding children's welfare and how to raise any concerns with the appropriate agencies. Managers regularly check staff's knowledge to ensure that it is accurate. For instance, they question staff on safeguarding topics. Managers communicate effectively with other professionals, such as local authorities. Staff have their performance monitored regularly. For example, managers observe staff leading activities and provide them with immediate verbal feedback. This helps managers to address any issues in staff performance efficiently. Parents speak highly of the managers and staff. They are kept informed about their child's time at the playscheme. Parents comment that they are especially impressed with the robust child collection process that is in place. This process helps to further support staff to keep children safe. Managers take on board feedback from parents. They reflect on the service they provide and swiftly make relevant changes.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children participate in a range of activities which excite and motivate them. Staff include children in decisions about the activities on offer. For example, children choose what games to play with the parachute outside. They enthusiastically join in with these games. For instance, they pretend to be captured by a shark in the water underneath the parachute. Staff skilfully plan activities that will help to support children's learning during the holidays. For instance, children listen to a story before they go on to create animal masks. Children respond positively to the questions that staff ask them. Staff value the work that children create, for example by displaying their work around the classroom. Children confidently move around the vast grounds and facilities on offer. Staff make the most of the space provided. For example, they take children on nature walks to collect natural materials. Children are supported to value each other's differences. For instance, staff talk to children about the different foods they enjoy during snack time.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and behave positively. Staff encourage them to share and take turns. For instance, they play catching games with toys in the swimming pool. Staff gain a range of useful information from parents when children start. This helps them to meet the individual needs of all children. Staff are vigilant to support children with health issues, such as allergies. They monitor these closely. Children who regularly attend the playscheme confidently support those who have not attended before, for example through the use of a buddy system. Children develop friendships with others. They confidently hold discussions with one another about topics that interest them. Children develop a strong understanding of the importance of healthy eating. Staff use motivating challenges to support this understanding. For example, they challenge children to collectively beat a previous total for the number of fruits and vegetables they eat over the day. The oldest children are given the opportunity to help and support the staff. For instance, they assist staff to run activities for groups of younger children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY152900
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063541
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	270
Number of children on roll	578
Name of registered person	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900856
Date of previous inspection	6 August 2015
Telephone number	01480 467 567

Barracudas (Bishop's) registered in 2002. The playscheme employs 36 members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold qualified teacher status and two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. Specialist staff, such as lifeguards and sports instructors, also work with the children. The playscheme opens during the Easter and summer holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm.

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