

Inspection of Barracudas (Cambridge)

St. Faiths School, Trumpington Road, CAMBRIDGE CB2 8AG

Inspection date:

31 July 2025

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

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children arrive confidently and eager to start the day. They are warmly greeted by friendly and enthusiastic staff, who chat easily with each child as they walk with them to their group for the day. Children greet each other and they settle quickly to independent play before the session starts. Staff explain the choice of each activity on offer during the day. They give explanations of the activities to help children make the right choice for them. Staff skilfully adapt their approach to ensure all children understand and have equal opportunities to participate. Their enthusiasm is infectious and ignites children's positive attitudes to join in and forge friendships with their peers.

Staff are well trained and use their professional knowledge to support children's behaviour. Children listen well in group activities and follow instructions that enable them to access the activities on offer. Staff are attentive to children and follow their interests. For example, they ensure children have time to watch and explore snails they find outside on the way to the base room. Children receive reminders and encouragement to wash their hands at relevant times, embedding good hygiene routines. They received lots of praise and encouragement to have a go and build independence in skills they need for school.

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

- The club is extremely well organised. The provider ensures all staff receive appropriate training at the start of each season and supplies detailed policies and procedures that underpin the club's activities. This includes ensuring group leaders have all the information they need about the children attending each day to ensure their individual needs are met.
- Children thoroughly enjoy themselves and gain new physical skills as they engage with different activities. Staff adapt games to enable children to build on their skills. For example, younger children play skittle ball, which helps them build hand-eye coordination and control to move on to games, such as dodgeball. Staff conduct effective risk assessments to keep children safe and learn about possible hazards as they try new games.
- Staff work well with the host school to ensure the environment is respected by all. They support the local authority's focus to help children learn good oral health routines. Children listen to stories that promote teeth cleaning, read by enthusiastic staff. They demonstrate that they are gaining this knowledge, such as when they develop role play into dentist visits. Staff instinctively introduce related vocabulary that children use in play. Children use toothbrushes to clean away plaque on pictures of teeth. They talk to staff about how they clean their teeth at home.

- Staff provide parents with clear information about what their child will need at the club. This includes the promotion of healthy foods to sustain their child through an active day. Staff talk with children as they eat their snacks and meals, creating a social environment where children can relax.
- Parents are positive about the club. They say that their children enjoy attending and that they believe their children are safe. Parents say that they receive information about the activities on offer and know where to check for more details. The key-person arrangements are shared with children and their families.
- Staff say that they enjoy working at the club and they feel supported in their roles. They say that they receive appropriate training to fulfil their roles and that they can gain additional qualifications. Staff receive regular feedback and support to help them provide children with high-quality activities.
- Staff ensure children have time and space to rest, to read books and engage in craft activities. They encourage children to be creative and talk to them with genuine interest. This helps to build children's self-esteem.
- Staff understand the local area where the club operates and provide an inclusive environment. A large number of families that attend speak English as an additional language. Staff use a range of strategies to help children to settle and understand. For example, staff use pictures and visual timetables so that children know what will happen when.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY476562
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10392286
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 at time of inspection	4 to 14
Total number of places	200
Number of children on roll	407
Name of registered person	Young World Leisure Group Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900856
Telephone number	01480 467 567
Date of previous inspection	14 August 2019

Information about this early years setting

Barracudas (Cambridge) registered in 2014 and is run by Young World Leisure Group Limited. It operates on school premises but is independently run. The setting employs 30 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold an early years qualification at level 3 or above, including six with qualified teacher status. The setting opens from Monday to Friday, during the summer school holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Gail Warnes

Inspection activities

- The area manager showed the inspector the premises and discussed how they ensure they are safe and suitable.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Staff spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The area manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The area manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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