

## Your child's day

### What are the arrival and collection times?

We have Early and Late Clubs, so you can rely on superb care for your children between 8:00am and 6:00pm. Standard times are drop off from 8:30am with collection up until 5:30pm. Activities start at 9.30am and finish at 4.30pm.

Dropping children off is normally a very quick process, except on Mondays when we register them and collect Essential Information forms. Please allow a little time for this. Collection also takes a few minutes as we go through the necessary security procedures.

### What if I am delayed?

Don't worry - your child will be well cared for until you arrive. If you're likely to be delayed after 5.30pm, please call us so we can let them know. We book them into the Late Club there and then and you pay later when you collect them. The Late Club is registered until 6:00pm. After that we must notify Social Services of any children still on site, so you must make arrangements for them to be collected before then!

### How is the day organised?

There are six one-hour sessions each day, with a choice of at least two activities in each. There are choices for children whether they prefer sporty activities or more creative ones. Each day there are two short breaks and a lunch break.

### How will your child be grouped?

#### 4 ½ to 6 year olds

Our Minnows are the youngest and normally most smiley group at camp! They're usually the youngest 24 children and are aged between 4½ and 5. (Children must be 5 years old by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 or 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010 if attending Easter camps). They're looked after by a qualified Early Years teacher and two assistants. The staff ratio for this age group is 1:8, increasing to 1:5 in the swimming pool.

Our youngest children get to try most of the activities that the older ones do, but with smaller equipment for smaller hands! They have a carefully prepared timetable with quiet periods and frequent breaks. Before the camp we'll send you a small booklet for you to complete with your Minnow to tell us what stage they're at with things like catching a ball, signing their artwork, water confidence and using scissors. We use FUN sessions as a way of developing their confidence in these kinds of things.

When they finish their time with us we'll update their booklet to see what progress they've made, and also send them home with a certificate to tell you what they've been up to, as they're normally having so much FUN they can't remember everything they've done!

#### 6 and 7 year olds

Our next age groups are the 6 and 7 year olds, and again depending on the number of children at the camp there may be one, two or even three groups. Children in this age group are normally starting to develop a little more of their own personality, self-awareness and a stronger sense of belonging to the group or team.

They're ready for more action and have more get up and go than the first timers, so we fill their programme with a real mix of energetic options, like team sports, bouncy castles, racket sports, dance, trampolining and swimming, because if Barracudas' 6/7 year olds have bundles of anything, it's bundles of energy!

We schedule less quiet time than the Minnows, but there are still plenty of more relaxing activities if they do start to flag or just prefer that kind of thing. The staff ratios on activities are still maintained at 1:8, and 1:5 in the swimming pool.

### **8-10 year olds**

Groups are normally up to 24 with two members of staff, and on some busy camps they can go over 24, but always with a third instructor. (The staff ratio for these children is 1:12. ) The instructors are passionate about developing the children's skills and the kids look up to them as real role models.

Whether the activity is dance or football, tennis or painting, motorsports or drama, the action is non-stop and the time just flies as children love doing well and learning from their coaches.

Friendships form quickly in this age group but are also long lasting. The connections are made through play and are strong. They revolve around learning new games and new skills. There's a growing awareness of teamwork, children are more unselfish and they develop their own group rules.

### **11-14 year olds**

When it comes to Barracudas the 11-14 year age group is as good as it gets, and it's this group that knows the way and shows the way! You're able to take part in all of the awesome activities on offer at your camp and there's a great sense of teamwork as you try all sorts of new stuff.

The programme is set to suit the group, and includes your choice of superb sports, survival games, arts and drama, motorsports and a whole load of older activities and of course some chill out time with your mates!

### **14-16 year olds**

BX+ is for 14-16 year olds who want to stay active during the school holidays and also train as a potential member of the Barracudas team. You get all the buzz of the activity programme, and then get to spend part of each day shadowing a member of the Barracudas team – setting up activities, organising groups and keeping the atmosphere going.

It's a great programme for anyone who loves sport or enjoys looking after younger children. There's a real opportunity to work with a group for part of each day, but always with an experienced member of our team to lead the way. The staff will guide, mentor and coach, making sure you have a great time doing the activities, and an even better time leading them.

Apart from the fact that it's a great experience, your end of camp notes and certificate is a superb addition to your record of achievement.

### **Can my child be in the same group as their friend?**

Sure! As long as they're a similar age (maximum difference 18 months) and if both they and the friend request to be with each other at least a week before the camp we will *always* accommodate one grouping request per child.

Of course we'll always try and accommodate any group requests, but it may not be possible if that request is late and the group is full, as our ratios mean we can't just squeeze in an extra child.

We will not group children together if there is a grouping chain. If one child wants to be with another, who wants to be with another, who wants to be with another and so on, then grouping becomes impossible. That's why we only *guarantee one advance and reciprocated grouping request per child*.

**What if my child attends camp without their friends?**

Most children do! They're either on their own or with a sibling in another group, but staff encourage them to get involved from the moment they arrive. That helps them make friends and build confidence right from the start.