

Inspection of Hampstead Community Centre Playscheme

Fitzjohn's School, 86a Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NP

Inspection date:

7 August 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 enjoy a welcoming and supportive environment, where they quickly settle into well-established routines. From arrival, children confidently self-register using their unique numbers. They show a clear understanding of the day's structure. Staff encourage children to take responsibility by involving them in tasks, such as tidying up. Older children often support younger ones. For example, they carry their mats and set up picnic-style lunches. Children are kind, independent and cooperative.

Staff celebrate children's backgrounds and languages through creative activities. For example, they make multilingual welcome posters and flags that represent children's countries of origin. This helps all children to feel valued and included. Staff work closely with parents and carers to learn key phrases in children's home languages. This supports children's communication and helps them to have a sense of belonging in the club. Staff support children with additional needs, including those with allergies and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), well through individual care plans and partnerships with external specialists. This ensures children's safe and inclusive participation in all activities.

Children take part in a wide range of stimulating outings and play experiences, including kayaking, bowling and visits to farms with playgrounds designed to support children with SEND. These activities support children's social skills, teamwork, physical development and understanding of the world around them. Staff plan activities carefully, always prioritising children's safety and well-being.

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

- Leadership and management are strong and well organised. The provider uses regular self-evaluation, involving staff and parents, to reflect on and improve the club. Staff's training is up to date, especially in safeguarding, first aid and supporting children with additional needs. This helps children to have safe and high-quality experiences.
- Leaders work closely with specialists and local authority teams to support children with SEND and specific needs. They complete detailed risk assessments and make tailored adjustments to ensure that all children access activities safely. This helps children to feel included, confident and able to fully enjoy the experiences on offer.
- Children's well-being is a clear priority for staff throughout the day. They supervise children closely to ensure that they are safe, happy and settled in the environment. Staff encourage healthy eating by checking children's packed lunches and discussing healthy food choices with children. They support

children's social development through positive interactions and structured play that builds their friendships and confidence.

- Parents are very positive about the club. They appreciate how staff gather key information to help their children to settle quickly and feel comfortable. Parents say their children enjoy attending the club and are always excited to return.
- Staff are especially responsive to the needs of younger children. They provide gentle support as children learn to share, take turns and work with others. This caring approach strengthens children's social skills and helps them to form positive relationships.
- Staff support children's personal development through warm and respectful relationships. They listen to children's ideas and follow their interests. For example, when children show an interest in clay, staff offer guided activities to create models, such as spaceships. This inclusive approach helps children to feel valued.
- Staff skilfully guide children in using tools safely, such as scissors and hot glue guns. For example, during a group project to build a large model of a giraffe, staff provided clear instructions and close supervision. This support helps children learn to manage risks, work collaboratively and take pride in their creativity.
- Staff feel supported and enjoy working at the club. They create a warm and caring environment for children. Leaders work closely with the provider to ensure robust safer recruitment. They have clear induction processes in place for new staff.
- Staff provide a calm outdoor space, where children explore books and comics independently. They encourage careful handling and support children's early literacy. This quiet area helps children to develop focus and regulate their emotions. Older children often share stories with younger ones. As a result, children build confidence and enjoy reading.
- Children develop their gross motor skills with confidence. For example, they use the adventure playground safely. Staff encourage children to take part in ball games, such as football and tennis, to build teamwork and children's coordination and resilience.

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	EY262532
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	10392343
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 12
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	134
Name of registered person	Hampstead Community Action Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP519306
Telephone number	0207 794 8313
Date of previous inspection	16 August 2019

Information about this early years setting

Hampstead Community Centre Playscheme registered in 2003. It is independently run and operates from Fitzjohn's School in the London Borough of Camden during the summer holidays. It is open between 9am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. The club employs 10 permanent members of staff. Of these, five staff hold suitable qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Honufa Begum

Inspection activities

- Leaders showed the inspector around the club. They discussed how they keep children safe and plan activities for children.
- Parents, staff and children shared their views of the club with the inspector.
- Leaders showed the inspector relevant documentation.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children during the inspection.
- Leaders engaged in a meeting with the inspector to discuss the leadership and management of 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2025