

St Matthias Holiday Scheme

Inspection report for early years provision

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Inspection date 31/07/2012
Inspector Amanda Allen

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Type of setting Childcare - Non-Domestic

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

There were no children on roll when this inspection took place. The findings in this report are based on evidence gathered from discussions with those who care for the children and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation. Where there are no children on roll, no judgement is made on the quality of the early years provision as there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children. The report states if the provider continues to meet the requirements of registration.

Please see our website for more information about each childcare provider. We publish inspection reports, conditions of registration and details of complaints we receive where we or the provider take action to meet the requirements of registration.

Description of the setting

St Matthias Holiday Scheme is organised and run by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and opened in 2012. It operates from St Matthias School in Shoreditch, within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The provision is registered on the Early Years Register and on both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

A maximum of 83 children under eight may attend at any one time; of these, 24 children may be in the early years age group. There are currently no children on roll at this childcare scheme site.

The local authority employ a pool of 50 staff to work across their childcare schemes, of which the majority hold appropriate childcare qualifications. The provision serves the local community and is normally open 8am till 6pm during the school holidays.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childcare scheme is run and managed by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The management team have an excellent understanding of how to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and the statutory legal requirements. They are able to demonstrate through discussion and documentation that their staff have a clear understanding of what to do if there is a safeguarding concern for a child at the setting. Evidence suggests detailed safeguarding and complaints policies are in place. The management team describe how all parents receive a copy of these at registration in their handbook. The scheme is based on a school site and the management team describe how they offer a safe and secure environment for children. The management team complete comprehensive risk assessments for the school, which are evaluated and reviewed regularly. They explain that all staff have received fully enhanced disclosures and the numbers are kept on file. Public liability insurance is in place and is updated each year. The management team are able to demonstrate they understand the importance of providing an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome and children's individual needs are met through regular consultation with parents, staff and children.

The management and staff are able to describe their clear understanding of the importance of working in partnership with the parents, carers and other professionals in looking after children. They are able to explain how they work with parents to obtain information about children's individual needs, using highly effective systems to gather information from parents upon admission. The management team keep parents informed through verbal feedback at the end of each session. Each child completes a WOW book of photographs and their artwork to take home at the end of their time at the scheme. Parents receive copies of their assessment folders so they can see what their child has been doing at the scheme. Staff at the scheme aim to complement their term time provision.

Evidence suggests a good balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities will be available. Through discussion, the management team were able to demonstrate an exciting selection of activities that promote all areas of learning. They describe an excellent awareness of the assessment procedures they implement as part of monitoring children's progress and identifying their next steps in learning. Evidence suggests a good balance of indoor and outdoor activities will provide children with lots of opportunities to learn and develop their skills. The management team ensure all documentation is in place for administering medication and recording accidents. They explain how effective boundaries and behaviour management strategies are implemented to help children understand what acceptable behaviour is.

The management team describe a strong emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles with children. They explain how staff provide parents with a packed lunch guide for the childcare scheme. Staff are able to describe how they promote children's understanding of healthy snacks, drinks, regular exercise and fresh air. The management team explain that appropriate numbers of staff hold valid first aid certificates. They are highly reflective in evaluating their practice and understand the importance of reflecting on the service. The management team describe how they are consistently looking at ways to improve and identify strengths and any areas for further development. The staff team ensure they keep up to date with early years legislation as they attend regular training courses. Evidence suggests recommendations of good practice from their previous inspection have been implemented and the management team demonstrate an excellent capacity to maintain continuous improvement.

Compliance with registration requirements

The registered person continues to meet the requirements of registration.

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met