

Palm Tree Academy

The Salvation Army, Local Community Centre Nunhead, 217a Gordon Road,
LONDON, SE15 3RT



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

2 November 2017

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Not applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The manager does not regularly monitor the suitability of staff or make all documentation relating to staff suitability available for inspection, as required.
- The manager does not check that planned activities consistently take account of the needs of the youngest children. For example, staff do not support younger children well enough if they become distracted, to reignite their interest and curiosity.
- The manager does not deploy staff sufficiently well to ensure that they meet children's needs at all times.
- The manager does not gather enough information about children's health, so that staff can take appropriate action to fully support children's welfare if needed.

It has the following strengths

- Children receive healthy and nutritious meals that meet their dietary needs.
- Children enjoy attending the club. They settle quickly and make good relationships with staff and each other.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
■ implement effective systems to ensure that the ongoing suitability of staff is regularly reviewed and that all staff records are accessible and available	02/01/2018
■ provide activities that take account of the needs and interests of younger children, and support them to engage in activities throughout the session	02/01/2018
■ deploy staff effectively so that the needs of children can be consistently met, particularly during school collection times.	30/11/2017

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

- further enhance the information collected from parents about children's health and care needs, to clarify what action staff should take should the need arise.

Inspection activities

- The inspector reviewed policies and procedures, some documentation relating to staff, and registers for children.
- The inspector observed the quality of interactions between staff and the children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents as part of the inspection.
- Discussions with staff and children took place at appropriate times.

Inspector

Kareen Anne Jacobs

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Safeguarding is effective. Staff complete training to update their knowledge about how to keep children safe. They understand the potential risks posed to children and know how to report concerns if they arise. The manager maintains accurate registers of attendance and staff correctly implement the club's school-collection procedures. However, during times when staff are alone with children, such as when colleagues leave to collect additional children from school, the children who remain at the club do not receive a good level of support. The manager seeks the views of parents and children when considering priorities for improvement, such as reviewing the homework club's hours. Staff receive regular support to improve their practice and professional development. Although the manager explains the safe recruitment processes, she has not implemented a system for checking the ongoing suitability of staff. Some documents relating to staff were not available on the day of inspection as required.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff support children to develop an understanding of the differences between themselves and others, such as when visitors share their personal experiences of physical health difficulties and discuss with children how they might feel. This helps children to understand the importance of treating people who have different abilities with kindness and respect. Children learn about technology, for example, as they use the computer and electronic till in the role-play home corner. Activities and routines do not always meet the needs of younger children. They are sometimes too long and children lose interest. Staff do not identify this promptly, and interact effectively, to provide the support that children need to help them engage in other available activities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children behave well. Staff use consistent strategies to support all children to listen and pay attention, such as being still and quiet when an adult raises their hand high. Staff provide children with opportunities to take on additional roles and responsibilities that they enjoy. For example, staff nominate table monitors who check that their friends behave well and speak to each other respectfully during mealtimes. Younger children show increasing independence and a sense of achievement, as they help older children to clean tables. Children of all ages play together well. For example, they organise themselves as a group before dancing rhythmically to the music, copying dance moves shown on the computer game. Although staff support children's health generally well through daily routines, they do not obtain enough information to fully meet children's specific health requirements, should the need arise.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY490903
Local authority	Southwark
Inspection number	1022810
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	6
Name of registered person	Alishea Cara Marsh
Registered person unique reference number	RP514373
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07949567005

Palm Tree Academy registered in 2015. It is located in the Nunhead area in the London Borough of Southwark. The setting is open from 3.30pm to 6.30pm on Monday to Friday during term time, and provides a service during some school holidays. Five staff work directly with the children. The manager holds a qualification at level 6, one staff member holds a qualification at level 3 and another holds a qualification at level 2.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted 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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