

Fire Station Community Nursery

The Old Fire Station, London N16 7NX



Inspection date	4 January 2019
Previous inspection date	3 May 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The provider and the new manager strive for quality and are passionate about working with parents, staff, children and local authority advisers to help achieve this. Since the last inspection they have made continual improvements that positively benefit children, parents and staff.
- Children play in a welcoming and engaging environment. Staff have sound expectations of children's learning. They plan a range of enjoyable and challenging activities and children are eager to join in. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Highly effective arrangements help to secure early intervention for children, if this is required. Strong partnerships with external agencies and services help to meet children's individual needs.
- Parents speak highly of the setting. Staff ensure that they tell parents about their child's day and regularly share information about their learning and development.
- Sometimes, when supporting play, staff ask questions to extend children's learning but do not allow quite enough time for them to think and respond.
- The manager and lead staff do not focus sharply enough on teaching and learning when evaluating their training needs and practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with the time that they need to think, respond and talk through their own ideas
- improve the focus on teaching and learning when evaluating and deciding on areas for staff training and improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed different activities, including outdoor learning, and assessed the impact these had on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies, children's records and documents relating to the suitability of staff. She discussed self-evaluation with the provider.
- The inspector talked with staff, parents and children to gather their views, at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider.

Inspector
Chris Lamey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities to protect children. They know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about children's welfare, including protecting children from extreme views. Children move safely and freely around the setting. Staff ensure resources and the areas used by the children are well maintained and safe. Staff are enthusiastic, motivated and work well together. The manager monitors the learning and development requirements of the children well. Gaps in children's learning as individuals, and in groups, are effectively identified and swiftly addressed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff regularly observe what the children are learning and are interested in. They use this information effectively to assess children's progress and plan what they are going to do next. Children eagerly join in play activities alongside staff who are very engaging and enthusiastic. Children enjoy being creative and experiment using different materials. For example, children delight in watching a mixture of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar explode as they make volcanoes. They squeal with delight as the mixture fizzes over and the colours mix together. On the whole, staff support children's communication and speaking skills well. They explain what they want the children to do and introduce new words for the children to copy.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff complete thorough risk assessments to ensure children's safety. They deploy themselves well and supervise children effectively as they move between different areas of the environment. Children feel safe, which helps them to build on their confidence. Children enjoy healthy snacks and hearty home-made meals. They have plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise to support their physical development. Children have excellent opportunities to choose their play. They are very absorbed in cutting the vegetables in the role-play area. They experiment with child-safe equipment, trying to find the best way to chop and peel. There is a varied selection of real vegetables for the children to use. Staff explain how they use the vegetables to teach children about healthy eating and what raw foods look like.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy participating in the range of enjoyable activities to promote their early literacy and mathematical skills. For example, older children freely write their names on their work and younger children delight in making marks in glue and shaving foam mix. They count spoonfuls of mixture as they fill cups and identify animals that live in the cold. Children have good opportunities to become independent. For example, they learn to dress themselves before going outside and serve themselves at snack time. They are active and independent learners and are developing the skills and attitudes they need to be ready for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY487042
Local authority	Hackney
Inspection number	10063141
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	The London Early Years Foundation
Registered person unique reference number	RP901332
Date of previous inspection	3 May 2016
Telephone number	020 7249 3234

Fire Station Community Nursery registered in 2015. The setting is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm all year round. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 11 members of staff, of whom, nine hold early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6.

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