

Inspection of The Hut

The Hut, Streatham Vale Park, London SW16 5AL

Inspection date: 10 September 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and content at this nursery. They enjoy their time in the setting. Both the indoor and outdoor learning environments are stimulating and provide good opportunities for children to make safe and independent choices. Children follow rules that allow them to play safely in the outdoor forest area. For example, children know that they can engage with some activities independently, but know they need adults to be nearby when they use tools, such as playing with the cutting saw and using spades and shovels. Children feel safe and secure and confidently explore the variety of spaces at this outdoor nursery. They take appropriate risks in their play, for example climbing trees, playing with water, walking on balancing beams, and finding tadpoles under wooden logs. They ride tricycles, too.

Children behave well as they explore the outdoors. They show great enthusiasm and positive attitudes towards their learning. They have strong bonds and relationships with staff at the nursery. They explore their outdoor environment with great curiosity and engagement. The dedicated manager is enthusiastic. She has high expectations for every child and has developed a curriculum based on children's interests and what they need to learn next. A varied range of activities build on what children know and can do, especially in building their communication and language skills. Children also acquire independent skills, in preparation for their move to school. Parents are complimentary about the staff team and the care and learning they provide.

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

- The quality of education is good. Children have access to a broad curriculum, both indoors and outdoors. They make good progress across all areas of learning. Leaders identify what it is that they want children to learn. They work closely with the qualified staff team to implement a curriculum that enables children to fulfil their potential. Children benefit from a highly stimulating and well-resourced environment. They use a range of natural materials to help extend their own play.
- Children have many opportunities to listen to stories and rhymes. They hold conversations with adults. Children independently choose books and take them to staff, who read to them. They make progress in their communication and language.
- Staff encourage children to be independent in their self-help skills and, as a result, children are learning how to take care of themselves. For instance, children wash their own hands with soap and running water. They use nail brushes to ensure under their fingernails are cleaned before mealtimes.
- Staff provide good opportunities for children to develop their understanding of

mathematical concepts. Children learn to count and identify shapes during daily activities and play, for example as they cut pieces of fruit and play with a cash till, as they 'pay for their snacks'.

- Staff understand where children are in their development. They complete the required progress check for children at the age of two years. However, sometimes, not all parents receive this assessment of their children's learning. Staff also share photographs and observations of children over a secure online platform.
- Staff ensure that the provision is inclusive for all children who attend. They meet children's emerging needs through interventions and support.
- Managers hold individual staff meetings, which include feedback about any weaknesses in practice. Leaders and managers provide staff with coaching.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are able to recognise potential child protection concerns and describe how a change in a child's behaviour or appearance may indicate concerns. Staff confidently describe the process and policies to follow should they have concerns about a child. Staff are also confident to escalate this further if they feel their concern is not acted on appropriately. Staff know how to keep the children safe, in the outdoor nursery and within the premises. They put appropriate measures in place to minimise accidents. For example, they ensure that construction tools, such as hammers and saws, are covered and are only used with adults supervision.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- share children's assessment reports with parents, to strengthen further partnership working with parents and other agencies.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY561142
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	10191103
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Streatham Youth And Community Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP561141
Telephone number	02031464179
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Hut registered in September 2018. It is based in Streatham Vale Park, in the London Borough of Lambeth. The setting opens from 9am to 3pm, all year round. The Hut has six staff, with qualifications ranging from apprenticeship level to level 7. It provides funded places for children aged two and three years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Komla Dartey-Zaffar

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The manager conducted a joint observation with the inspector.
- Parents spoke to the inspector during the inspection, and the inspector considered their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and scrutinised a sample of documentation, including the safeguarding policy, arrangements for suitability checks and risk assessments.
- A learning walk was undertaken around the nursery to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.

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.

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