

Inspection of Hampstead Community Centre

78 Hampstead High Street, LONDON NW3 1RE

Inspection date:

30 September 2022

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

Staff create a warm, inviting and welcoming atmosphere at the club. Children's emotional well-being is a priority for the kind and gentle staff. Providing an inclusive environment is at the heart of the club. Staff are particularly skilled at supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. All children are encouraged to take part in the activities offered by staff. Children speak confidently about how happy and excited they are to spend time at the club. They attend the club from different schools and form strong bonds and friendships with each other. Children behave exceptionally well and understand the high expectations staff have of them.

Staff keep children safe. They have clear procedures in place as they accompany children from their schools to the club. Children understand how to keep themselves safe and well. For example, they independently wash their hands when they arrive and before they eat. They talk about their favourite healthy foods, fruit and vegetables. Staff support physical activity. They encourage ball games and children have opportunities to dance, chase bubbles and move in different ways. Children help decorate the walls with their pictures and displays. They proudly talk about their art and gain a sense of pride in their achievements.

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

- Children choose from a wide variety of books, toys and resources. There is a soft, quiet area for children who like to sit and relax or read after school. Children settle quickly when they arrive at the club. They chat and laugh together as they talk about their days at school. Staff listen carefully to children as they share their experiences. Boys and girls play happily together as they use building blocks and build a zoo. They listen to each other's ideas and develop social skills that will support them in later life.
- Partnerships with parents are very strong. Parents praise the club and say that the manager and staff are exceptionally supportive of them and their children. In particular, they value the time staff take to get to know their children. They highlight the support they receive, which they say is tailored to the individual needs of children. The manager understands how to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds. She works closely with other agencies and organisations to provide help and advice to families who may need additional assistance.
- The manager constantly reflects on the service she provides for children and families. She uses this to enhance, for instance, the partnerships she has developed with the headteachers from the local schools.
- Staff and the manager hold regular meetings and share information and ideas

for planning. Staff say they benefit from regular training and guidance. However, the manager acknowledges she could enhance one-to-one meetings even further, particularly for newer members of staff.

- Older children help and support younger ones. They include them in their games and activities. Children demonstrate they feel secure and looked after by staff. For example, they turn to staff for help if they need comfort or support. Staff gently and carefully help children learn about how their behaviour impacts on other children. They are excellent role models for the children in their care.
- Children develop independence skills. They hang up their own coats and bags when they arrive at the club. Children clear away their plates after snack and help staff to tidy up after activities and at the end of the club. They build on the skills they learn at school. For instance, they practise using scissors and create pictures using small beads. Children strengthen their fingers and develop their coordination. They are supported in enhancing the skills they will need in their future learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their duty to keep children safe. They can recognise the signs that may cause them concern about the welfare of a child in their care. They know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns. Staff are clear on the procedures they need to follow if they have concerns about the behaviour of other professionals, colleagues or leaders. The manager has robust recruitment procedures in place to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. She carries out relevant checks. Staff carry out checks to ensure the premises are safe and remove any hazards they identify.

Setting details

Unique reference number	116323
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	10234090
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	55
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	Hampstead Community Action Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP519306
Telephone number	020 7794 8313
Date of previous inspection	3 October 2016

Information about this early years setting

Hampstead Community Centre registered in 1992. The club provides out-of-school care. The premises are situated in the London Borough of Camden. The after-school club operates Monday to Friday, from 3.30pm until 6pm, during term time only. The club employs six members of staff. Of these, five hold relevant qualifications.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Ceri Callf

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 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 manager and the inspector viewed the premises. The manager explained what activities and resources were available to children.
- The inspector talked to children at different points during the inspection and took their views into account.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed different activities and the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and spoke to staff. She looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working at 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.

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