

Inspection of The Strings Club - Brockley Holiday Camp

Prendergast School, Adelaide Avenue, London SE4 1LE

Inspection date:

26 October 2022

**The quality and
standards of early
years provision**

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Not Met (with actions)

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the club. They acquire new skills, such as how to handle musical instruments and make sounds in different ways. This helps them to refine their small-muscle movements and develop good listening skills. Children speak enthusiastically about how they enjoy playing the ukulele and are looking forward to trying the violin. Children learn about music and composers from around the world. This teaches them about people and communities outside of their own experiences.

Children are well looked after by the caring staff, who are kind and sensitive to their individual needs. Children demonstrate that they feel secure as they participate in the many games and activities. They express their views confidently and make choices about what they want to play with.

Children understand staff's high expectations for them. They behave well and cooperate with their peers. For instance, during a game of cards, children follow the rules and have great fun together, even when they do not win. Children display positive attitudes throughout the day. For example, they demonstrate great enthusiasm while they participate in energetic parachute games in the large outdoor area. Older children are kind and supportive towards their younger peers as they teach them how to use a skipping rope.

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

- Leaders promote a culture of self-reflection and further development. This ensures that the provision consistently evolves to meet children's needs. For instance, staff are aware that national lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic have affected some children's confidence and emotional security. They have considered this well when planning the environment. For example, staff have introduced an area where children can play quietly during the day. They are vigilant and provide reassurance for children when needed.
- All children are allocated a key person, to help them settle and feel secure at the club. Staff gather a range of information from parents, which enables them to manage children's individual needs effectively. For example, the club operates a 'no nuts' policy and staff closely supervise children at mealtimes to ensure that children with food allergies are not put at risk.
- Parents receive good communication from staff about their children's days. This includes daily feedback on the activities that their children have enjoyed the most. Parents comment that their children love coming to the club and are eager to return, that they form positive relationships with staff, and that they thoroughly enjoy the range of activities and resources.

- Staff value children's views and opinions. For example, children help staff to set out the 'golden rules' for behaviour at the start of each holiday club. Staff and children discuss the rules regularly, ensuring that they are clearly understood and shared by all.
- Staff speak with enthusiasm about their roles and say that leaders are supportive. They complete a wide range of training to familiarise themselves with the club's procedures and the aims for children's learning. This ensures that the provision runs smoothly and that children receive good levels of care. Staff describe the satisfaction they feel as they see children develop skills and confidence at the club.
- Children benefit from a wide range of activities and resources that cater for their individual interests. They become highly engaged in the activities, which help them to build on what they know and can do. For example, children have fun creating a volcano from sand. They explore how to build it even taller and what features they can add to make it more realistic. Staff provide explanations and introduce new words, such as 'crater' and 'lava', to help extend children's knowledge.
- Staff promote healthy lifestyles for children well. They ensure that children play outdoors daily and motivate them to be physically active through a range of fun sports and games. Staff remind children to stay well hydrated and encourage them to make healthy choices about what they eat.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders fully understand their safeguarding responsibilities and promote a safeguarding culture at the club. Staff receive regular training to ensure that they understand their role in protecting children from harm. They confidently describe the signs of abuse and neglect. Leaders and staff know how to report concerns about the welfare of a child or the conduct of an adult. They are vigilant about risks and follow club procedures to help maintain a safe and secure environment. The provider implements robust recruitment and selection procedures to help ensure that staff are suitable to work with children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY544874
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	10238882
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	4 to 11
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	The Strings Club Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP534114
Telephone number	07563039700
Date of previous inspection	25 October 2021

Information about this early years setting

The Strings Club - Brockley Holiday Camp registered in 2017. The club is based at Prendergast School, in the London Borough of Lewisham. The club operates from Monday to Friday, 8am to 5.30pm, during school holidays only. The provider employs five members of staff to work with the children, of whom two hold relevant qualifications at levels 2 or 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Crawford

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken this into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The club owner showed the inspector around the area of the premises used by the club and explained how they organise the environment and experiences for children.
- The inspector observed activities and interactions between children and staff to assess how well children's needs are met. This included a joint observation with the owner.
- Staff and children shared their views and experiences with the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection. The inspector also took account of parents' written feedback.
- The club owner met with the inspector to discuss issues such as staff recruitment and training. She ensured that documents, including staff's suitability checks and paediatric first-aid certificates, were available for the inspector to view.

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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