

# Inspection of Tree House Friends

Trent Park, Cockfosters Road, Barnet, Enfield EN4 0PS

---

Inspection date: 22 January 2025

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>
------------------------------	-------------

---

The quality of education	<b>Good</b>
--------------------------	-------------

Behaviour and attitudes	<b>Good</b>
-------------------------	-------------

Personal development	<b>Good</b>
----------------------	-------------

Leadership and management	<b>Good</b>
---------------------------	-------------

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
--	------

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **The provision is good**

Children are excited to come to this unique and nurturing setting. The staff warmly welcome them and focus on developing strong attachments so children flourish and feel safe and secure. They are dedicated to ensuring children have the freedom to explore and develop a lifelong love of nature and respect for the world around them.

Children have good independent skills. Staff work hard to embed routines and support children to do things for themselves. Staff make children feel valued and listen to their voices. They are warmly welcomed in the morning circle time and sing 'good morning' to their friends enthusiastically as they sit on logs and have a safety reminder.

Staff are excellent role models for positive behaviour. They have a calm approach and praise and celebrate children's success. They are passionate about getting to know the children really well, and supporting them with their emotional well-being and regulation is a priority. Through carefully planned grounding activities, children are developing good skills to manage their feelings and behaviour as they take deep breaths, walk bare foot on grass or hug trees.

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

- Children use their own ideas and are becoming great problem-solvers. They enjoy the challenge of jumping over rivers and climbing into hammocks. Staff promote a love of reading by creating a cosy pop-up library and being engaging storytellers as they climb trees in the woods.
- Staff support children to lead healthy lifestyles. They work together with parents to ensure that children have hot, nutritious lunches prepared to fuel their bodies for outdoor learning. They find out what children enjoy, identify strengths and ensure children are active.
- Staff know children well. They are nurturing and sensitive to their needs. They track and monitor children's development and plan experiences that support children's next steps. Children delight in learning about the world around them. They are experts at searching for worms and recalling information about birdsong, types of trees and how to light a fire.
- Children are becoming confident communicators and are developing language well. Practitioners are good role models for new vocabulary and help children to say and repeat new words. This ensures all children, including those with English as an additional language, are making good progress. Children use this vocabulary in their play as they talk about things that are edible and may be poisonous.
- Children benefit from quality interactions. Staff are skilled at asking effective

questions that enhance the learning and encourage children to think and talk. Children have positive attitudes towards tasks as they work cooperatively to move bark with rakes, spades and wheelbarrows for good periods.

- Children are developing resilience and are motivated to join in. They enthusiastically paddle in the stream and are collecting stones to filter their own water. However, the activities are not always appropriate for all children's ages and stages of development. Therefore, younger children are not fully engaged in activities to make the most of the learning opportunities available.
- Parents speak highly of the forest school. They are so pleased with the unique and exciting experiences that the setting provides and feel their children are flourishing. They are impressed with the staff's nurturing qualities and dedication to providing good quality care, education and advice. Parents recognise the progress their children are making and explain how they are prepared well for learning in the future.
- The leader and manager provide good professional development opportunities for staff to further support the needs of children. They warmly welcome other professionals into the setting to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff's well-being is important, and they work closely as a team and reflect on their setting and practice. The leaders have recently completed a mental health training course to provide them with the skills to support their dedicated team. Staff feel valued and very proud of their roles.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

## **What does the setting need to do to improve?**

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

- plan experiences that support younger children's development more effectively so they are even more engaged in the learning and make even better progress.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY542061
<b>Local authority</b>	Enfield
<b>Inspection number</b>	10368342
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Sessional day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	2 to 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	12
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	20
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Tree House Friends Childcare Services Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP542060
<b>Telephone number</b>	0744 5093 585
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	15 March 2019

## Information about this early years setting

Tree House Friends registered in 2016. The setting is located in Trent Park, in the London Borough of Enfield. The setting is based outdoors and offers the government funded places for childcare. The setting is open from 9am to 3pm, five days a week, open all year. The setting employs three members of staff, two of whom hold appropriate qualifications at level 3 or above.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Sara Vincent

## Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the area.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The inspector spoke to children to find out about their time at forest school.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2025