

Inspection of The Hackney Day Nursery and Pre-School

Railway Arches 359-360, Westgate Street, London E8 3RN

Inspection date: 3 August 2022

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	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children settle well into the nursery and have established strong bonds with staff. All children receive good levels of support and reassurance from staff. Children show that staff are important to them. When they need help or a cuddle, they seek out their key person or another familiar member of the team. Children behave well as staff use effective behaviour management strategies. Staff talk to children gently to help them understand expected behaviour and the daily routine. This helps children to feel safe, secure and valued.

Staff incorporate children's interests and learning needs into activities. For example, while children are playing with play dough, staff follow children's interest in their favourite story and children make 'owl ice-cream'. Children develop the skills and positive attitudes to learning that they need for their future success. This engages children fully with their learning and supports their emotional well-being.

Children access planned and self-directed learning opportunities both indoors and outside in the garden. Staff use their knowledge of what children know and can do to plan a selection of well-organised activities across the curriculum. Staff have high expectations of the children they care for. Children's independence is well supported, and they make friends at nursery. This helps them to be ready for their next steps in learning, including starting school.

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

- Children's language and communication is well supported across all age ranges. In the baby room, staff explain how they encourage early language acquisition through songs, stories, eye contact and gestures. Older children regularly access books independently and enjoy group story time sessions with their peers. This helps children develop a love of books and reading from a young age.
- Staff ensure there is access to mark-making activities both indoors and outside in the garden. Children draw, paint, chalk and proudly present their work to staff. Staff organise small-group sessions in the art room where children develop their creative skills. This helps children to gain early writing skills and discover the joy of communicating their ideas creatively.
- When children's behaviour does not meet expectations, staff help them to understand right from wrong. Children are supported to learn about sharing, turn taking and being kind to their friends. This supports children's early understanding of tolerance and respect, which they will need for the future.
- Children enjoy healthy and social mealtimes. Fresh nutritious food is cooked on site by a knowledgeable cook who skilfully accommodates allergies, preferences and appropriate weaning foods. Children in the pre-school take their task of setting the table for mealtimes very seriously. They beam with pride when they

are praised for their work. Children eat well and mealtimes are positive experiences. This helps children to learn good manners and develop their social skills.

- Leaders have established strong routines at the setting which have a positive impact on children's well-being and learning. Children get meals and snacks at appropriate times and restful sleep when required. Staff are deployed effectively during sleep time to ensure sleeping children are monitored while their peers continue their learning elsewhere. These routines promote children's good health and welfare.
- Parents are happy with the care and education their children receive at nursery. They comment that improvements to communication and regular updates have increased their understanding of how they can support their children at home. Parents feel that staff are approachable and take time to give daily updates at the end of the day. This provides continuity for children.
- The manager reflects on the provision to determine areas for improvement. The manager and senior leaders have made changes to strengthen staff supervision arrangements. These improvements will take time to embed and ensure staff get the support, coaching and training they need to promote the best interests of children.
- Staff well-being and reducing staff turnover is a priority for senior leaders. The appointment of a staff 'health champion', a separate space for staff breaks and other innovations help to create a happy workplace. Staff say this focus on their welfare and professional development makes them feel valued and they are happy in their roles.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their responsibilities to protect children from harm. They can accurately identify the possible signs that children may be at risk of, or experiencing, abuse. They know what procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child or if an allegation is made about a colleague. Leaders ensure all staff receive regular updates and training to support their safeguarding knowledge. Staff complete effective risk assessments. Any hazards identified are dealt with swiftly to ensure children's safety and security. Leaders have robust recruitment procedures in place to ensure all adults working with children are suitable.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- continue to embed supervision arrangements to ensure staff get the support, coaching and training they need to promote the best interests of children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY493558
Local authority	Hackney
Inspection number	10238773
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	56
Number of children on roll	57
Name of registered person	FountNursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP903442
Telephone number	0207 241 5341
Date of previous inspection	28 March 2022

Information about this early years setting

Fount Nursery registered The Hackney Day Nursery and Pre-School in 2015. The nursery is situated in London Fields, in the London Borough of Hackney. It opens each weekday from 8am to 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery employs 11 members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Trina Lynskey

Inspection activities

- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk and discussed the provision and the curriculum.
- The inspector spoke with staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection and completed a joint observation with the manager.
- Parents shared their experiences with the inspector during the inspection and the inspector took account of their views.
- Children spoke to and engaged with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the early years education leader to discuss how they evaluate the provision.
- The manager provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request, including records of staff suitability.

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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