

Holiday Childcare Scheme

Please visit our website for information about May scheme!



The Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare Scheme is Ofsted registered and provides childcare for children aged 3 to 13 years old. The holiday provision takes place in Tower Hamlets schools and operates during the school holidays, (excluding the Christmas break).

The Easter holiday childcare scheme took place at St Mary and St Michael Primary School between Monday 6 and Friday 17 April (inclusive).

“Online booking is perfect now.”
Parent/carer

- WOW! Look at some of the activities we took part in!**
- Cycling
 - Baseball
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Giant Connect 4

Our scheme was very different as we followed Department for Education advice and only provided childcare for children of critical key worker staff.

A small number of places were also provided for children with SEND through Short Breaks.



The Holiday Childcare Team is part of the Parent and Family Support Service. For more information, to leave feedback or to book places visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs
Parents/carers who use the scheme are encouraged to give ongoing feedback.



Improved
online
bookings
now
available.

Early Years

Children in the early years were welcomed to the scheme and supported with an allocated key worker. The theme of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' kept the children busy as they created lots of bear related arts and crafts. Children enjoyed lots of physical activities, our trikes were very popular.



Our staff helped children understand coronavirus (COVID-19), the importance of hand washing and social distancing. Our favourite activities which promoted social distancing are below:



Main Scheme and Teen Space

As we provided childcare for fewer children than usual we amalgamated our main scheme and teen space so children aged 5 – 13 did activities together. Children enjoyed the sunny weather with lots of outdoor activities such as skateboarding and cycling. There were lots of new exciting resources for the children. Children learnt how to play baseball with staff.



Children quickly learnt the hand washing routines.



"I do like the consistency with hand washing and safe distance - the girls are very aware"
Parent/carer

Staff Profiles

Aaliya

What is the best thing about working in the holiday childcare team?



My colleagues are great to work with and I enjoy working with them. It's really pleasing to see how the children enjoy being at the scheme, especially with everything that has been going on, the children are in good spirits.

What is your favourite activity at the scheme?

I really enjoy the sports activities we provide for the children like Athletics, especially running not that I am a fast runner but I do my best.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I am a keen seamstress and I have been making face masks for my family in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Amanda

What is the best thing about working in the holiday childcare team?



Learning every day in regards to policies and procedures

and being able to interact with the children, showing new children new things.

What is your favourite activity at the scheme?

I really enjoy creating and role play of different characters from the themes we have.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I am Level 3 British Sign Language trained and I enjoy communicating with my deaf friends when we meet up.

Student Profile

Patrick a student from Switzerland travelled to London to



complete a student placement with the holiday childcare team. During his placement Patrick gained administrative skills alongside practical experience of working with children. Patrick was enthusiastic and a pleasure to host. We wish Patrick all the best with the future and hope he returns to visit us in the future.

Holiday childcare scheme achieves Quality in Play status

The holiday childcare scheme recently underwent an accreditation process to obtain **Quality**



in Play status, which is awarded for demonstrating quality and value for money whilst creating and maintaining excellent staffed play environments.

Accreditation involves producing a portfolio of evidence covering **11 quality areas**, ranging from the physical play environment to workforce development. Following an inspection of our February 2020 scheme, we were awarded a **certificate of confirmation**.

Mick Conway, Quality in Play

Assessor, said: "The organisation of the portfolio was meticulous following the 'commitment, action, review' format for each quality area. I was particularly impressed by how children's feedback on previous schemes is built into forward planning and procurement of equipment, materials and trips out. For example, cooking and baking sessions have been introduced following requests from the children after a couple of trial sessions which were very popular. There is a specific focus on 'non-gendering' play activities across the scheme and I noted that a number of boys were very proud of the cushions they had made and sewed."

Lance Lathino, Holiday Childcare Team

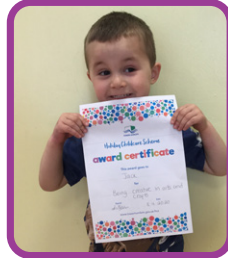
Manager, said: "I am pleased that the fantastic work the holiday childcare team does in responding to the views of children has been recognised through the Quality in Play accreditation process. I would like to thank all of our amazing childcare workers and office team for providing a high quality service for children in the borough."

Celebrations

Early Years



Angelina aged 3: award presented for working well with all the children and being kind.



Jack aged 4: award presented for being creative in arts and crafts.



Raihan aged 5: award presented for speaking confidently and playing kindly.

Main Scheme and Teen Space



Ellie-Jane aged 6: award presented for her beautiful bunting for the afternoon tea party.



Amelia aged 9: award presented for lovely chick family made in arts and crafts.



Sonny-Bear aged 7: award presented for his great sportsmanship and batting skills in baseball.

Thanks

A special thank you to the **Dorchester Hotel** who supported the holiday childcare scheme with cooking hot lunches for children. On Thursday 16 April we also had a special afternoon tea.

The Felix Project who provided food which we distributed as food hampers to the families we supported. Our families appreciated the support you provided.

St Mary and St Michael Primary School have provided fantastic support through the use of the school during a difficult time which has allowed us to support families in the borough.

Finally our amazing **holiday childcare workers** who were full of enthusiasm and ensured the children had an enjoyable experience at the Easter scheme.



Afternoon tea prepared by the Dorchester Hotel



Food hampers provided by The Felix Project



Thank you NHS and all key workers.

Feedback

Parents/Carers (15 parents/carers gave feedback)

- 100% stated they felt their child was safe at the scheme
- 100% stated they would you use the scheme again
- 100% rated our staff as very good or good
- 100% stated they felt the scheme was inclusive of all children
- 100% rated our activities as very good or good

Staff Feedback (100% gave feedback)

- 100% of staff enjoyed working at the scheme
- 90% of staff felt supported as a member of staff at the scheme



Children (16 children gave feedback)

- 100% rated our staff as very good or good
- Half stated there was nothing they did not like about the scheme.

Some responses from children who said they did not like something include:

"I don't like riding on the scooters when someone crashes into me."

and

"Waiting for lunch."

Children told us that at future schemes they would like to see dance and basketball activities. Our staff will make arrangements for this to happen.

"This was our first experience of using the scheme and looking forward to May half term. I have been thoroughly pleased with the service provided. Well done and thank you to all staff for working and looking after all keyworker children at this time."

Parent/carer

"Good team, gave us feedback or informed us of any issues promptly."

Parent/carer

"All very helpful and friendly - smiley faces when you arrive at the scheme and leave. Thank you to all."

Parent/carer

"Tower Hamlets have provided an excellent service."

Parent/carer

Easter Egg Hunt

Children had lots of fun hunting for Easter eggs.

