



Holiday Childcare Scheme

October autumn fun

Visit our website for information about our next scheme in February 2024.



During our October scheme, children took part in a range of fun autumn activities.

Arts and crafts

There were many creative projects to choose from such as designing and making a clay pot. The children enjoyed returning to this project throughout the week as they were able to experience the different stages of clay making from moulding and drying to painting.

Sports

Tennis was hugely popular, with some children perfecting their skills and playing against staff. Other sports on offer included archery, with children learning how to hold a bow and take aim at a target, and football, with numerous tournaments taking place on the pitch.

Autumn activities

Autumn was celebrated by way of collecting all things that represented the season. The children went on wildlife walks to forage for materials for making a collage, including leaves, branches and feathers. They also used autumn colours to create paintings that were later displayed in the arts and crafts room.

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Figures from our October 2023 scheme bookings

542

sessions booked

160

children supported

129

total families supported

95

working families supported

49

LBTH schools represented in bookings

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

October holiday scheme

Wellbeing sessions

The Global Learning Team continued a series of wellbeing sessions for the October scheme. Each session began with a thinking circle, practising listening skills, sharing the changes they see in the season and their favourite things. After lots of rain, the sun came out and the children explored the lovely wildlife garden at the school. They went on an autumn hunt and looked for squirrels and more! It was an opportunity to work in teams and explore the space with curiosity and enthusiasm.

Cooking

Cooking sessions were held throughout the week, with children making carrot cakes, blueberry muffins, apple crumble and sweet potato muffins.

Those in the teen space participated in Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food cooking workshop delivered by our very own Jamie Oliver trained parent practitioners. The children learnt various cooking skills and made fajitas. For some, it was their first experience cooking and they thoroughly enjoyed using all the utensils and tasting their fajitas, which they later took home.

Party

We ended the scheme by carving pumpkins and holding a fancy dress party. We would like to thank the parents and carers who donated food for the party. The children enjoyed dancing, singing and eating the party food.



Children's feedback

I like playing with the toy trains.

Charlie, age 4

My favourite is playing with my friends.

Aiden, age 4

I sewed a pillow for the first time, with some help I made patterns.

Aeryn, age 4

I enjoyed baking blueberry muffins.

Cleo, age 5

My friends liked me to play in the home corner with them which was lots of fun.

Amir, age 4

I love playing in the sandpit.

Sashan, age 6

I like playing with my friends in the garden area looking for bugs.

Lara, age 6

I like the football pitch to play football with my friends.

Leyton, age 8

I enjoy the soft play area with my friends.

Theo, age 8

I played football with Dwayne, the deputy, which was really good.

Sam, age 9

I loved all the cooking as I have never been able to do that at home. I learnt how to use knives to cut vegetables and fruit in our cooking sessions.

Reah, age 11

I cooked lots and learnt how to make fajitas and apple crumble.

Noura, age 10

I really enjoyed table tennis trying to beat the staff. I also loved playing baseball with all the other children.

Sebastian, age 12



Parents/carers feedback

I was extremely pleased with ALL the staff – they were very helpful, professional and catered to the children's needs. Well done to them all. Information was shared very well. I felt that I was kept informed every step of the way. I booked an extra day at the last minute and wasn't made to feel this was a problem.

The staff have always been amazing, but this year, Joe, Taous, Mary and all the others, have been particularly helpful in my son's very reluctant transition from early years to the main scheme. They've been very supportive and accommodating, helping him to feel brave and settled, but without rushing him. I really appreciate this bespoke support when they have so many children in their care.

I was greeted by calm, friendly staff on arrival, which was very reassuring. My son was happy that table tennis was available and some screentime (thank you for keeping this within restricted timeframe), but mainly he enjoyed the friendly atmosphere.

Love how professional the staff are and how they adhere to high standards of safeguarding.

You said... we did

YOU SAID...

"We didn't receive any information on what activities there would be – I looked on the website and it looked like there was an old copy of an 'example' of what the activities would be. That said, on the day, the activities were clearly displayed in the foyer of the building."

WE DID...

Once bookings are live the website is updated with the scheme details and the main activities that are on offer. This is found on the 'HCS about our scheme activities and newsletters' page.

YOU SAID...

"I got a bit confused that I was supposed to book my child in for the main scheme, and I accidentally booked him for early years."

WE DID...

The children are placed in groupings based on their age range. Once your child moves into Year 1 at school, they are placed in the main scheme. Please ensure when you are booking that you check their age is correct and they are placed in the right grouping. If there are any errors email us.

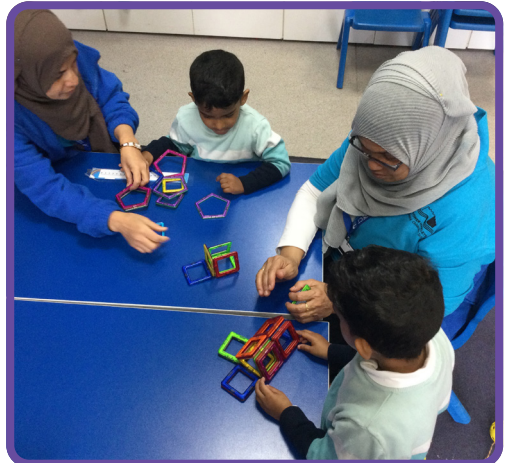


YOU SAID...

"It would be great to get earlier visibility of upcoming schemes (not just the next one) in terms of dates and locations."

WE DID...

We share all scheme dates on our website on our page 'Future scheme dates'. We will look into sharing the location as early as possible.



On behalf of the Holiday Childcare Team we wish you well and look forward to seeing you at the next scheme in February 2024. For more information about our schemes please visit our website:

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs