

St Josephs Pre-School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY248608
Inspection date	04 March 2008
Inspector	Chris Mackinnon
Setting Address	The Presbytery, St. Pauls RC Church, Hazelgrove Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3PQ
Telephone number	07986 355812
E-mail	
Registered person	The Trustees of Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust
Type of inspection	Integrated
Type of care	Sessional care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St Joseph's Pre School was first registered in 2002 and operates from the presbytery of St Paul's RC Church, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. Children have access to two purpose built play rooms and a fully enclosed outside play area. The setting is open from 08:45 to 12:00, Monday to Friday during term time, with afternoon sessions from 13:00 to 15:30. The setting is registered for a maximum of 26 children aged three to five years. There are currently 55 children on roll, with 35 receiving funding for nursery education. The setting is able to provide care for children with disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. There is a staff team of seven, with two volunteers and a parents rota. All paid staff have appropriate early years training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's healthy development is effectively supported, by a well organised range of hygiene procedures. Close adult guidance ensures children are consistently encouraged to keep clean and be tidy. A varied range of snacks are provided, including fresh fruit, and children also prepare and learn about different foods. Staff encourage children to help themselves to drinks throughout the play sessions. A well organised variety of physical activities are provided and staff consistently encourage children to be active and develop their physical skills. Children enjoy a wide range of lively group games and the setting effectively supports children's healthy growth and development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a bright, colourful and stimulating play environment. Children can move easily and safely between activities, as they explore the indoor and outdoor play and learning areas. Staff effectively ensure all required safety features are in place and the security of the setting is well organised. A well presented and attractive range of play and learning resources is provided and children enjoy using art-crafts, assembly and role-play materials. A good range of numbers and writing resources is also provided. A varied selection of books and reading material is in place to stimulate children's ideas and use of words. Staff work closely with children to support their play and physical skills, but the use of early learning resources in the outdoor area is under-developed. Staff are trained and experienced carers, with an effective awareness of the need to protect and safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children greatly enjoy their play and have much fun, well supported by the setting's highly effective learning programme. A well organised range of activities ensures children are consistently interested and challenged. Many close adult interactions and highly effective adult support encourages children's confidence and skill development. Children are creative and have many art-craft and assembly activities. Children are also highly inventive and are able to extend their learning with many improvised games and role play. Children enjoy exploring a well prepared range of resources for counting and writing and have much fun sharing their ideas and using language. Regular reading and story-time sessions and access to a computer are also part of the setting's play and learning. Staff are highly effective carers and successfully encourage children to enjoy the setting and make progress.

Nursery education.

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Children follow a highly well organised and stimulating learning programme that provides an excellent range of challenging activities. During the set learning activities and in much child initiated play, staff confidently and successfully extend children's development and learning experiences. Many highly well organised learning opportunities are provided and the systematic and effective use of words and language, is a strong element of the setting's teaching practice. Children are able to count, talk expressively and develop their writing. Children listen well, support each other during play and talk easily

within their group. A well organised and effective key-worker system also successfully supports individual children's progress. The confidence and dedication of staff is reflected by the children's involved and happy enjoyment of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are made welcome at the setting and encouraged to join in and play together. Children learn to share and help each other, which fosters their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Staff manage children's behaviour effectively and are able to work successfully with individual children to support their social and emotional development. A well organised range of diversity and other culture resources, supports children's awareness of the wider world. Parents are given clear details of the children's activities, with clear information also provided on the setting's play and learning activities. Staff key-workers take care to ensure parents know how their children are progressing.

The partnership with parents is good. Clear and well organised information is recorded and made available for parents on their children's progress through the learning stages. Parents have close and effective links with staff and their children's key-workers; with good access also to helpful information on the setting's play and learning programme. Parents also have access to a well organised notice board and newsletter that provides clear details of the learning themes and events within the setting. Parents may visit or stay at the setting to support their children's learning at any time.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy the setting's stimulating and well organised play environment. A well planned and varied programme of activities provides children with a good range of fun play experiences and learning opportunities. A well organised range of stimulating and attractive play resources supports children effectively in enjoying many creative and challenging learning activities. Children also have access to a safe and well prepared outdoor play area. Children are well supported by qualified and experienced staff, who take care to ensure individual children are engaged and happy at the setting. All record keeping is up-to-date and well organised written policies ensure the pre-school is efficiently managed. The setting meets the needs of the range of children attending.

The leadership and management within the setting is good. Children are enthusiastically supported in their learning by a well organised range of activities. The early learning programme successfully promotes children's achievements, but the planning for the presentation of resources within the learning environment, is not fully developed. Individual children are well supported in their learning by a confident staff team with a good understanding of children's development needs. The written evaluation of children's progress is also clearly organised, with key-workers effectively monitoring children's learning development and progress. Staff meet regularly to review the early learning programme and share ideas for development.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the setting has revised the complaints policy for parents, supporting improved outcomes for children in Positive Contribution.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- widen the range of learning resources available for children in the outdoor play area

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop the planning guidance for the presentation of resources within the children's learning environment

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk