

Little Saints Pre-School

St.Thomas Primary School, School Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 9AF



Inspection date

27 February 2015

Previous inspection date

4 October 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff have established good relationships with parents and involve them in their children's learning. This provides continuity in children's learning between the pre-school and home to support their development.
- Staff ensure that children are safe from harm and implement safety procedures. They understand their responsibilities in keeping children safe.
- Children's behaviour is good. They play cooperatively by sharing and taking turns.
- Staff use children's interests to plan exciting activities and this motivates children in their learning.
- Staff have good links with the local school; this helps children with their move to the reception class.
- Staff have positive relationships with children, so children feel safe and secure.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff help children with tasks they can manage alone. This means that children are not always encouraged to be fully independent.
- Occasionally, staff do not give children enough time to think about their answers and respond to questions to enable them to develop their thinking skills and solve problems by themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide additional and consistent opportunities for children to be independent
- give children time to formulate their answers before they respond to help them develop their problem-solving and thinking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children and staff participating in activities and daily routines, indoors and outside.
- The inspector spoke to children and some parents to gain their views on the provision.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff at suitable times and held discussions with the owner/manager.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the owner/manager.
- The inspector viewed relevant documentation including required records and assessment paperwork.

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Children enjoy a variety of activities and are keen to participate. This means that their play is exciting and purposeful. For example, children enjoyed parachute games, running underneath it and changing places with their friends. This promotes their physical skills in an enjoyable way. Parents are fully involved in their children's learning. For example, staff provide information about letter sounds so that parents can continue children's learning at home. This prepares children well for the next stage in their learning. Staff use a wide range of language and good questioning techniques to promote children's communication well. However, sometimes staff do not give children enough time to think about their answers and respond. Staff are aware of children's starting points and this helps them plan exciting activities for the children, which enhances their development.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff have positive interactions with children. This means that children's personal, social and emotional development is strong. Staff provide lots of reassurance for children who are less confident and engage them in activities that interest them. Staff have a thorough knowledge of safeguarding and the premises are safe and secure to protect children from harm. Staff encourage children to be independent most of the time, however they sometimes miss opportunities to develop this further. Children's behaviour is good and children manage minor disputes effectively. This is because staff are good role models and demonstrate by example. Staff develop positive links with the local school so they can talk to children knowledgeably about the changes to come, to boost their confidence.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Staff are committed to improving their practice. They recently attended a physical development course to promote this area of learning for the children. This means children can extend their larger physical skills through well-planned activities. Staff are dedicated to improving their practice and their drive is evident by seeking advice from others and attending relevant training. The provider monitors children's assessments to ensure children's needs are being met. Staff seek additional professional support where children's progress is not as expected. Staff understand the learning and development requirements and support children effectively to reach the next stage of their learning. Staff supervision is good. They have regular opportunities to discuss their strengths and areas for development and the provider promotes their professional development well. This means children benefit from improved practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY343699
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	835054
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 8
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	78
Name of provider	Jayne Margaret Hooper
Date of previous inspection	4 October 2010
Telephone number	01392 217880

Little Saints Pre-School registered in 2006. The pre-school operates in its own premises attached to St Thomas Primary School in the St Thomas area of Exeter. It opens during term times from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The pre-school is in receipt of nursery education funding for three and four-year-old children. The pre-school offers breakfast club every day and after school care on five days per week for children attending St Thomas Primary School. There are two staff, including the owner, who work directly with children. Both hold appropriate childcare qualifications to level 3.

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