

St. Sebastians Nursery Class



United Reformed Church, Hollins Lane, Marple Bridge, Stockport, Cheshire, SK6 5BB

Inspection date

11 March 2015

Previous inspection date

3 July 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	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		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider has failed to notify Ofsted of changes to the management team and persons on the committee within the required time frame.
- The manager has not checked that committee members have undergone suitability checks and consequently, details of these checks are not available for inspection.
- Occasionally, during group times, staff do not always encourage children to share their ideas or to make choices, for example, of the songs to sing, to maximise their enjoyment and engagement.

It has the following strengths

- Parents are encouraged to have regular discussions with staff about their child's progress and are always asked to contribute to assessments, such as through children's individual sharing diaries. Consequently, all children are seen to be making good progress.
- The well-established key-person system helps children build up strong, trusting relationships. This effectively supports children's emotional well-being.
- Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities have good opportunities to be involved in the activities. Staff provide one-to-one support and have developed close links with other professionals to ensure their needs are met.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure records are available and maintained, in particular those relating to the suitability checks for, and changes to, the management structure and committee members.

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

- increase opportunities for children to share their thoughts, ideas and to make choices during group times to foster their engagement and enjoyment further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the staff and the committee members.
- The inspector toured the premises.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation and a selection of policies and procedures.

Inspector

Helen Gaze

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They are well-qualified and their teaching is good. Consequently, children develop the necessary skills for future learning at school. Staff consistently assess children's development and identify the next steps in their learning. They follow general themes that reflect children's interests and needs. They skilfully organise the environment each day with a range of different areas, which successfully extends children's learning. For example, children play imaginatively in the flower shop. They count money, write lists, make tree rubbings and plant flowers. Staff join in with children's play and ask them purposeful questions to promote their critical-thinking skills. During group times, children learn about the weather and sing rhymes and songs, played on a music centre. However, sometimes staff do not encourage children to share their ideas, thoughts or to make choices of the songs to sing. Consequently, some children are not fully engaged or enjoying the session.

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

Children feel safe at the pre-school. However, weaknesses in maintaining suitability records and a failure to notify Ofsted of changes to committee members compromises their safety. Staff provide a range of experiences outdoors. Children enjoy playing on balance boards and beams to develop their co-ordination. Indoors, children use wheeled toys and negotiate space as they manoeuvre around tight corners. This supports children in taking developmentally appropriate risks and promotes their physical skills and well-being. Staff remind children of simple rules, such as being kind and gentle to encourage positive behaviour. As a result, children behave well. Staff prepare children well for their transfer to school. Children practise putting on coats, prepare snack and take care of their own personal needs relative to their age. This supports children developing their independence skills.

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

The manager does not fully understand her responsibility in checking or maintaining required information records, in particular records of the suitability checks for committee members. This impacts on children's safety and well-being. Despite this, the details of staff's suitability checks and qualifications are available for inspection. Staff are aware of their roles in reporting potential concerns about a child's welfare. However, Ofsted have not been notified, within the required timeframe, of changes to the management team and of individuals on the committee. As a result, not all committee members, in particular the chairperson, are known to Ofsted and the current management structure is not clear. The manager implements the learning and development requirements well. She monitors staff's teaching and discusses and evaluates the learning activities with staff. She monitors the progress of groups of children, including two-year-olds to identify potential gaps in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	307185
Local authority	Stockport
Inspection number	867726
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	St Sebastians Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 July 2012
Telephone number	0161 427 8208 manager 0161 427 4634

St. Sebastian's Nursery Class has been registered since 1992. It is open from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, during school term time only. Five staff are employed at the setting. Of these, four hold recognised childcare qualifications at level 3 and one at level 6. The manager holds Early Years Professional status. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children and supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted 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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