

English Martyrs Pre-School

The Community Centre, English Martyrs Church, 64 Liebenrood Road, READING, RG30 2EB



Inspection date

9 March 2015

Previous inspection date

6 October 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- The quality of teaching is good and children progress well. All staff know children well and have a secure understanding of their starting points upon entry due to home visits and information gathered from parents. As a result, children make good progress.
- Children are settled and content at the pre-school. Staff promote their personal, social and emotional development well. They skilfully use resources, such as picture cards, to help children to share their feelings and develop positive self-awareness.
- Staff teach children about the consequences of actions and how these impact on others, so that children learn about behavioural expectations and gain good social skills.
- Staff maintain a safe and secure environment for the children, which helps them to learn about keeping themselves healthy and safe.
- Children's independence is well supported at snack time, which gives children confidence to skilfully pour their own drinks, butter crackers and cut fruit. This helps them to develop skills that prepare them for school.
- The staff have positive relationships with parents and work in close partnership with other professionals involved in children's care. This promotes appropriate, consistent care and learning experiences for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not encourage children to write their own names on their art work, which does not help them to understand how print carrying meaning.
- Occasionally, some children find it difficult to concentrate and contribute during group times due to the noise level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help children to engage in group time sessions by monitoring the noise level and reducing this when necessary
- offer greater encouragement for children to practise writing, for example, by labelling their own art work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff practices and their interaction with children.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's registration details, staffing documents and a selection of the club's policies and procedures, including safeguarding.
- The inspector checked evidence of the recruitment, suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector spoke with parents and undertook a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Tracy Bartholomew

Inspection findings

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

Children are happy and confident at the pre-school. They are progressing securely in their development, due to the dedication of the staff to providing good-quality teaching. Children have a good range of toys and resources to support all areas of their development. They benefit from opportunities to free-flow into the garden to enhance their physical skills and construction to extend their mathematical knowledge. Children enjoy exploring with sensory items, such as glue and cotton wool, to make spring pictures. However, staff do not always provide opportunities for the children to write their name, which does not fully promote their literacy skills. Children enjoy group sessions and most participate well. However, at times, the noise level is loud and this means that some children find it challenging to participate in the activity. Children's understanding of the natural world is well promoted as they plant seeds and learn about what they need to grow.

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

Children have good relationships with friends and staff at the pre-school. They play well together and are often heard calling to their friends to join in their play, for example, when they are exploring on the balancing beams. Children's health and well-being are successfully supported as staff give them clear messages about the importance of hand washing and healthy eating. Staff provide children with regular opportunities to develop their understanding of safety. For example, as they discuss how to handle scissors carefully and why it is important not to run indoors, as they may bump into their friends.

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

Staff have a secure understanding of how to protect children. They demonstrate a good knowledge of the referral procedures for safeguarding, including the signs and symptoms that may give cause for concern. The acting manager has a good understanding of the legal requirements. She has effective recruitment procedures and ensures that staff, particularly those with first-aid qualifications, are suitably deployed to meet the needs of the children. There are good arrangements to reflect and evaluate the effectiveness of the provision, through auditing and observations. This enables the staff to renew their knowledge and they have made significant changes to their teaching since the last inspection. The staff work well as a team and regular supervisions, monitoring and appraisals effectively support their professional development. Parents receive regular newsletters and have daily opportunities to talk to their child's key person.

Setting details

Unique reference number	116837
Local authority	Reading
Inspection number	996753
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	47
Name of provider	English Martyrs Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 October 2014
Telephone number	0118 9593121

English Martyrs Pre-School registered in 1972. It opens Monday to Friday during school term times from 9am to 3.30pm. There are 12 members of staff including an administrator. There are eight members of staff who hold childcare qualifications at level 3 and two members of staff are qualified to level 2. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four.

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