

St. John's Pre-School

St. Johns Pre-School St. Richard Room, St. John's Church,, St. John's Road, Newbury,
Berkshire, RG14 7QB



Inspection date

23 March 2015

Previous inspection date

6 May 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

- The environment is interesting and stimulating, providing good opportunities for children to become engaged, motivated and actively involved in learning.
- Staff meet children's social and emotional needs well. Relationships are strong, fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring that children are confident and happy learners.
- The leadership and management of the pre-school is strong. The manager effectively motivates and leads staff. Children are well prepared for their next stage in learning.
- Children's safety is effectively promoted through the implementation of good safeguarding and welfare procedures. Children are supervised and cared for by suitable and skilled staff.
- Staff are qualified, experienced and deployed well. Good quality training and staff's observations of each other's practice supports their ongoing professional development.
- Staff are committed to continuously improving their practice through their evaluations and reflective practice, which include contributions from parents and children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of resources and learning opportunities during outdoor play to challenge and build on children's curiosity with numbers, patterns and problem solving.
- Staff have not considered ways to further enhance the support offered to help children learning English as an additional language.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's learning outdoors by providing more resources and further opportunities for children to explore, count and investigate numbers and solve problems
- strengthen the range of resources and activities available to enhance the learning of children with English as an additional language.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and spoke with staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager, and checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records, planning documentation, a selection of policies and children's records.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager, and discussed the provider's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.

Inspector

Anneliese Fox-Jones

Inspection findings

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

Children have free access to a wide range of resources and opportunities that support their development. Teaching is good and promotes children's learning and development well. All staff have a detailed knowledge of the children, and use this effectively to support their individual progress. Staff effectively monitor children's development through ongoing and precise assessment, and planning their next steps in their learning. However, staff have not fully considered different ways to further enhance the progress of children learning English as an additional language. Children express themselves creatively and cooperate well. For example, a group of children show their excitement as they independently dress-up in different outfits and engage in imaginative play. Children enjoy regular exercise and use a range of resources, which help them to develop good coordination and control, such as using wheeled toys. However, staff do not make the most of challenging resources in the outdoor learning environment to mirror the stimulating indoor environment. Early literacy skills are practised well as children engage in drawing, painting and singing fun songs that supports their familiarisation of letters and their sounds.

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

Children's emotional well-being is supported well. All staff give positive praise and encourage children to achieve. Strong focus on independence skills ensures children gain confidence and learn vital skills required for future learning, such as school. Social conversations between key persons and children clarify that they enjoy their time in the pre-school. Children have many choices and make effective decisions based on strong support and guidance. Healthy snacks are offered to all children. The outdoor learning environment provides good opportunities for children's physical development. In addition, forest school activities are an important part of pre-school life. This includes weekly activities in a local woodland area, which is effectively organised to promote children's self-exploration.

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

Effective recruitment, induction and appraisal systems help to ensure that all staff are suitable and skilled in their roles. Staff have good partnerships with the parents and involve them in discussions, parents meetings, workshops and the required progress check for two-year-old children. Staff work effectively in partnership with local schools, this aids the smooth move of children to school. Parents feed into evaluations of the pre-school through questionnaires, and a suggestion box which helps to identify further improvements. As a result, staff practice supports children's learning, and prepares them in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511119
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	846874
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	38
Name of provider	St. Johns Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 May 2010
Telephone number	07814 155110

St Johns Pre-School registered 1998. It is a community group supported by a parents' committee. The pre-school operates from St. John's Church, in Newbury, Berkshire. The pre-school is open from 9.15am until 12.15pm on a Monday and a Friday, and 9.15am to 3.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are six members of staff that regularly work with the children. Of these, all staff have relevant early years qualifications to at least level 3, and the manager holds an early years degree. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education funding for children aged two, three and four.

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