

St Joseph's Swans and Cygnets Pre-School

125 Newtown Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 1PF



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

17 April 2015

8 May 2009

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 quality of teaching is good. Staff provide rich learning opportunities across all areas of learning, so children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Children are happy and form close bonds with their key person. Staff have a caring and warm rapport with the children, and this helps them feel safe and promotes their emotional well-being.
- There are strong and effective partnerships with parents, which provide good support for parents, and enable them to continue with their children's learning at home.
- Children are protected from harm because all staff follow good safeguarding practices and have a good understanding of their responsibilities for child protection.
- Leadership and management are strong because self-evaluation is successfully used to identify areas for ongoing improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not organise the outdoor area, so that opportunities to mark make are available, in order to help children develop their literacy skills further.
- Staff do not always make the most of group times to promote younger children's listening and attention skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the outdoor area, so that children are provided with good opportunities to develop their mark-making skills
- enhance the organisation of group times so that staff effectively support younger children to listen and pay attention.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staff engaging with children in a range of indoor and outdoor learning activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a selection of policies and procedures, and the children's learning records. She also checked evidence of the suitability of staff and their qualifications.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Amanda Tompkin

Inspection findings

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

Children's learning is supported well because staff regularly observe children and then plan activities that promote the next stages of each child's development. Staff ensure that they gather information from parents before children start, and use this information well to plan for their further individual development and progression. As a result, children make good progress and are gaining the necessary skills to support them with their move to school. Children who speak English as an additional language are supported extremely well. Staff use effective teaching methods, such as sign language, pictorial sequences, and use clear and concise instructions. However, staff do not always manage group times well. This results in younger children becoming distracted and not fully engaged in their learning and development at this time. Children's physical development is promoted well because they have continuous access to the outdoor area. Children can play in the sand, pedal bikes and practise their balancing skills. However, staff miss opportunities to support children's literacy skills while outdoors. This is because mark-making resources are not readily available.

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

Staff are warm and friendly. As a result, there are positive relationships in place with the children. Children demonstrate that they feel safe and secure. They actively seek staff out for comfort and reassurance should they be feeling tired or upset. Staff respond warmly to them, which promotes children's overall emotional well-being. Children learn self-care skills as they are encouraged to be independent and complete tasks for themselves. For example, staff encourage children to put on wellington boots and coats, before they go on a nature walk. Children are reminded to sit properly on chairs during mealtimes, and to share the toys and take turns. As a result, children behave well and learn the importance of keeping themselves safe. Children's good health is supported because staff follow good hygiene procedures. In addition to this, they provide children with healthy snacks and ensure they have access to water throughout the day.

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

The management team demonstrates a secure knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff are well qualified and are supported effectively in their professional development, which has a positive impact on children's progress. Practice is regularly observed and used to identify training needs. Staff practice also enhances the quality and consistency of teaching. The managers analyse the children's developmental assessments well to identify and plan for any gaps in their learning. Strong partnerships with the attached school and other local schools are embedded. Children regularly join in with activities in the Reception class. This means that the staff team effectively promote and support children's move to school. Parents spoken to on the day of the inspection are extremely happy about the service provided. They say that staff have supported their children well and helped them make good progress in their learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	205299
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	864092
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	38
Name of provider	St Joseph's Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	8 May 2009
Telephone number	01684 573016

St Joseph's Swans and Cygnets Pre-School is a committee run group and was registered in 1992. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with Early Years Professional status and one with Qualified Teacher Status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 8.30am until 3.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language, and 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.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

