

St James' Nursery

Church Hall, Mill Road, North Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 0PT



Inspection date

27 April 2015

Previous inspection date

27 January 2011

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

- Children are able to make decisions about their play and independently explore resources, which promote all areas of learning and development.
- Staff gently incorporate activities that enhance children's knowledge of recognising and writing letters, and their sounds. This develops children's early literacy skills and prepares them for school.
- Children benefit from constant access to the outdoor area where the range of activities continues, and they learn about the natural environment and wildlife.
- Managers place high importance on maintaining staff's knowledge on safeguarding practice and child protection procedures. Consequently, staff are confident and children are safe.
- Managers and staff have good relationships with parents and share all information regarding their children's progress. This ensures that parents are able to involve themselves in their children's learning.
- Managers are committed to continuously improving the provision for children. Consequently, children now benefit from space to run and other areas to plant and grow vegetables, to help develop their knowledge of the world.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff occasionally miss opportunities to develop children's knowledge of shape and colour during activities.
- Staff do not explain why children should not run indoors, which does not support their knowledge of how to keep themselves safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise children's learning further, in particular their knowledge of shape and colour during activities
- enhance children's knowledge and understanding of how to keep themselves safe in the indoor environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector reviewed children's development over time and sampled the setting's written documentation.
- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their feedback on the setting and staff.

Inspector

Hannah Barter

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 knowledge and understanding of children's interests and consider information that parents provide when they start. Key persons plan challenging next steps for children, which allow them to make good progress in preparation for school. Overall, staff offer good levels of extension during play. For example, while children explored paint, staff asked them to explain their marks and count the lines they had created. This successfully promotes language skills and knowledge of number. Most staff are qualified; however, some staff are developing their qualifications and have learnt the importance of allowing children time to think before answering. This has a positive impact on children's thinking skills. Children enjoyed digging in soil and talked about the last time they dug and potatoes they found. This teaches children about where food comes from. Children found potatoes and excitedly told staff. Staff asked children to compare sizes of the potatoes, which encouraged them to think and further developed their mathematical knowledge.

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

Staff provide a welcoming environment where children feel safe. Children arrive happily and have a good understanding of the routine. Children confidently wash their hands, find their names and sit down for snack. Children choose their own snacks consisting of yogurt, fruit and vegetables and staff use this opportunity to discuss children's time at home. During this time, groups are smaller, which enables children to develop confidence when communicating. Children have good relationships with each other and generally play well together. When children have disagreements, staff encourage children to talk to each other, share their resources and talk about how to be kind to each other. This develops children's social skills.

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

Managers have a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They ensure children develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe, as they take part in regular fire drills. Recruitment procedures are robust and the gradual and thorough induction process ensures staff are suitable. Staff receive annual appraisals, when staff and managers discuss their development and areas for improvement. Managers' discuss staff practice daily, but also hold termly meetings at which point they cascade knowledge gained from training to all staff. They observe staff practice and encourage them to identify areas for improvement. Furthermore, they oversee the development of all children and monitor their progress. This means they are aware of what staff are planning and ensures children's next steps are challenging. Managers have effective relationships with additional settings and schools, which successfully prepares children for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	113718
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	839895
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	St James' Nursery Committee
Date of previous inspection	27 January 2011
Telephone number	07754 775709

St James' Nursery registered in 1992. The setting is located in North Lancing, West Sussex. The setting is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 12pm and on Tuesday and Thursday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, during term-time only. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged three and four years. The provider employs six members of staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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