

St. Andrew's Pre-School

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3XZ



Inspection date

27 April 2015

Previous inspection date

22 March 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

- The manager and staff understand how to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements. All staff are checked as to their suitability and know what action to take should they have concerns about the welfare of a child.
- The manager and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the learning and development requirements. They plan interesting activities across all educational programmes, and children make good progress as a result.
- Children's well-being is good. Staff provide a friendly, family atmosphere and children quickly feel secure and gain a strong sense of belonging. This promotes children's emotional development.
- Parents have a wide range of opportunities to exchange information with staff, meet their child's key person and contribute to the life of the setting. As a result, parents are very engaged in children's learning and value the pre-school very highly.
- The staff team has a high proportion of qualified staff, including a teacher. Staff share their skills with each other to create a good standard of consistent teaching.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are very skilled at encouraging children to come up with lots of ideas for their play. However, staff do not consistently promote children's problem-solving skills, which means that children do not always learn to find their own solutions to different challenges in their play.
- Staff understand how to link letters and sounds in children's literacy activities. However, there are some inconsistencies in the way staff help children learn the sounds that letters make.

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 problem-solving skills by helping them to find their own solutions to challenges in their play
- enhance the provision for literacy by ensuring a consistent approach to the use of phonics.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed children at play indoors and outdoors.
- The inspectors and deputy manager carried out a joint observation.
- The inspectors spoke to parents to gather their views.
- The inspectors examined a range of documentation, including safeguarding and children's records.

Inspector

Susan McCourt

Inspection findings

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

Staff and parents have a strong partnership which is very effective in promoting children's learning. Staff share information about children's progress, and parents keep staff up to date with activities at home. This means that both parties can talk consistently with children about what they are learning. Staff have strong teaching skills. They recognise the needs of the different age groups and plan some separate activities accordingly. Children aged two have time in the garden area on their own so that they can explore at their own pace. Similarly, children who will be moving on to school enjoy activities that staff have individually tailored for them. This means that children can enjoy playing together and still have their individual learning needs met. All staff know the identified next steps for children with additional needs, which means that they receive highly consistent teaching.

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

Staff are very effective key persons for children. Children build strong attachments because staff engage them in looking at family photographs or other special activities. Children very confidently separate from their parents and enjoy exploring the inviting learning environment. Children are independent and can set their own challenges in role play or painting, which means they are very self-motivated. Children practise good hygiene as they wash their hands before preparing food or after using the toilet. They enjoy frequent outdoor play and healthy snacks and meals, which promotes their good physical development. Children are well behaved and staff give clear guidance to children so that they are beginning to master their own behaviour. For example, children use sand-timers to manage turn-taking. Overall, they acquire good skills to help them in their future learning.

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

The manager works closely with her staff team to gather ideas for improvements from training, parents and children. They formulate these into well-targeted action plans which they regularly review to check the progress and impact of improvements. In this way, the manager has overseen the transformation of the garden and ably met the recommendation from the last inspection. The manager monitors the work carried out by her team to make sure that they consistently track children's progress accurately. She identifies the groups of children who are not progressing at the expected levels of development, and swiftly targets teaching and resources to close the gaps. The manager carries out appraisals and all senior staff observe staff practice to set targets in training and mentoring.

Setting details

Unique reference number	155380
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	841968
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	Marion Pickup
Date of previous inspection	22 March 2011
Telephone number	01903 814479

St Andrew's Pre-School was registered in 2001. It operates from the Steyning Centre, Steyning, West Sussex. The pre-school is open every day, during term time, from 9am to 12 noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 9am to 4pm on Tuesday and Thursday. The pre-school provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are eight members of staff, of whom five hold appropriate early years qualifications. One of these is a qualified teacher.

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