

St Michael's Nursery

Rear of St Michael's Court, off Crocketts Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 3BX



Inspection date

29 April 2015

Previous inspection date

19 December 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The quality of assessment and planning for children's individual learning is too variable.
- Staff do not always fully promote children's next steps in learning.
- Children cannot always use the outdoor play area to enhance their learning experiences.

It has the following strengths

- The owner, manager and all staff demonstrate a clear commitment to making all the necessary improvements. They have sought and acted upon good-quality guidance from outstanding settings and the local authority.
- The owner, manager and staff have improved their understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage since the last inspection. This has led to improvements in the arrangements to promote and protect children's health and safety. The quality of teaching and partnership working with parents and other setting that children attend has also improved.
- Children's emotional well-being is promoted well. Children form secure attachments to staff who are warm and caring. This helps children to settle and feel secure and happy.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure regular and precise assessments are completed for all children and use this information to identify and effectively plan to promote children's next steps in learning so that they make good progress
- improve support and coaching for staff to help them to recognise how they can make the most of all opportunities to fully promote children's next steps in learning and improve the quality of teaching.

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

- enhance children's learning experiences by increasing the opportunities they have to play outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the three playrooms.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at children's records, a record of staff's Disclosure and Barring Service checks and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures and self-evaluation.

Inspector

Christine Armstrong

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Pre-school staff are not completing regular and precise assessments. Therefore, children's next steps in learning are not always fully identified and some activities are not well matched to their abilities. The re-organised pre-school room provides more opportunities for children to initiate their own play and follow their own interest across all of the areas of learning. Children benefit from taking part in planning projects, such as building an igloo from recycled tops. This helps to promote the mathematical, design and critical thinking skills children need for school. Staff working with children under three-years-old are using new and improved assessment and planning processes. They are working well with parents to complete accurate ongoing assessments. They are using this information to identify and plan activities that are well matched to children's abilities and promote their next steps in learning. Overall, children, especially those with special education needs and/or disabilities, or those with emerging gaps in their learning, are supported well. Children who speak English as an additional language learn a good standard of spoken English. However, staff do not always recognise how they can promote children's individual next steps in learning during all of their interactions with them.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

All children are assigned an individual key person who exchanges information with parents and other settings that children also attend. Displays and pictures around the nursery reflect children's diverse family experiences. This provides a powerful message that all children and their families are welcome, which helps to promote children's sense of self. Pre-school staff are using a number of effective strategies to help children learn what acceptable behaviour is. Improved hygiene and safety practices are in place and contribute to making sure children are kept safe and healthy. Children have at least one opportunity to spend time outdoors on a daily basis. However, children do not always enjoy the benefits of initiating their own play and following their own interest outdoors, for example, if the weather is inclement.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The leadership and management of this nursery has improved. Risk assessments, recruitment and ongoing suitability procedures are now securely in place to safeguard children. There are plans in place to make improvements to the outdoor area. The manager is undertaking a higher qualification and this is helping her to develop better leadership knowledge and practice. She is beginning to provide better quality monitoring and coaching for staff. This is helping staff to develop their knowledge and practice and to improve children's care and learning. Staff are making much better use of their positive relationships with parents to improve their support for learning at home. Parents spoken to on the day of inspection were positive about their children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY336687
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	1002676
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Albert Nathaniel Watson
Date of previous inspection	19 December 2014
Telephone number	01215583446

St Michael's Nursery opened in 2006. It is privately owned and operates from Smethwick in Sandwell. The nursery opens five days a week from 7.30am until 6pm all year round, except for bank holidays and a week at Christmas. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. There are currently eight staff working directly with the children. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5, five hold a qualification at level 3 and one holds a qualification at level 2.

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