

# St Thomas More Pre-School



The Priest's House, The Hermitage, More Park, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6HN

**Inspection date** 14 May 2015  
Previous inspection date 10 March 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Staff provide a well-resourced, welcoming environment for the children. They have easy access to a wide range of toys inside and outside that support their learning, independence and interest well.
- Staff work well together and organise the daily routines well. All staff deploy themselves to effectively supervise and enrich the children's learning both inside and outside.
- The manager supports staff practices through supervision meetings, training plans and encourages them to undertake training to improve their qualification level. This helps to ensure that the quality of teaching is good.
- Staff ensure that children follow good hygiene procedures. All the children understand they need to wash their hands before eating and do so independently.
- The provider implements an extensive range of policies and procedures, which staff share with parents. Therefore, parents are aware of the procedures and practices of the staff.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always use the same behaviour strategies to develop children's understanding of turn-taking and sharing.
- Staff do not consistently exchange information about children's learning with other early years settings they attend. Therefore, staff are not always fully informed about children's progress, to provide continuity in their learning.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review behaviour strategies to ensure that all practitioners consistently use the same approach to support children's learning further
- strengthen the exchange of children's achievements with other early years settings they attend.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with the children.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager of the provision.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's development records, their self-evaluation form, and key policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the parents' views through discussions.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

### Inspector

Maxine Ansell

## Inspection findings

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

Staff use their good knowledge of the children to provide a wide range of activities to promote their learning and development across all areas of learning. As a result, children make good progress from their starting points. Staff support the children's language and communication well. They use skilful questioning that encourages older children to develop their thinking skills as they relate pictures of feelings to their own experiences. Staff label and extend the younger children's mathematical vocabulary by naming the shapes being made with the playdough. Staff provide children with activities to develop early mark making and reading skills. They enjoy finding bugs, looking at them closely and deciding how many legs they have, using pictures to name them and drawing them. Children remain engaged in their learning for extended periods of time because the staff are aware of their interests. They use these interests to allow the children to make good progress across all areas of learning.

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

Staff have close relationships with their key children and parents. This allows a regular exchange of information about the children's progress and needs, and any concerns about their development can be discussed and quickly addressed. Staff help children to understand how to keep themselves safe. The children enjoy learning about road safety as they play with the bicycles. They stop and go appropriately as the traffic lights change. Staff develop the children's confidence and independence skills encouraging them to choose what they want to play with and put on their own coats. This prepares them for school. Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills and begin to understand how to manage their own risks as they play in the well-resourced outdoor area.

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

Staff have a good knowledge of the requirements for safeguarding and the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about children's welfare; this means all children are kept safe. The provider has implemented rigorous safety routines including daily safety checks and detailed risk assessment. The manager monitors children's progress across the areas of learning. This allows her to identify children who may need further support to reach expected levels of development. This supports children to make good progress. The staff have good relationships with the parents who comment that the staff are welcoming and know their children well. Self-evaluation takes into account the views of the parents, staff and children. Therefore, improvement plans are effectively implemented to enhance the environment and outcomes for children.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	127631
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	840685
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	26
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	48
<b>Name of provider</b>	St. Thomas More Church Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	10 March 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01732 874559

St Thomas More Pre-School registered in 1990. It operates from West Malling, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday during term time. Sessions operate from 9am to 12pm and from 12pm to 3pm, except on Tuesday afternoon. The pre-school employs nine staff; of these, seven staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager holds Early Years Professional Status. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for two-, three-, and four-year-old children.

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