

# St Marys Playgroup

Orchard Place, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8AP



## Inspection date

14 May 2015

Previous inspection date

2 July 2010

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Requires improvement</b>	<b>3</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		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting <b>does not meet legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

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

- The provider has not ensured all legal requirements are met. Not all members of the committee have completed documentation to initiate suitability checks. Therefore, the provider is unable to demonstrate whether all adults having regular contact with children have completed a Disclosure and Barring Service check. This is also a breach of the Childcare Register requirements.
- The provider does not ensure that Ofsted is notified of all changes to committee members and that their suitability checks are completed. As the committee's role is mainly fundraising, this reduces the effect of the lack of checks on children's welfare.
- Staff do not consistently extend opportunities for children to explore words and experiment with writing during their play.
- Staff do not always take all opportunities to enhance younger children's learning during group activities.

### It has the following strengths

- Staff work closely with outside agencies to develop practices which helps to ensure they support children in reaching their full potential.
- Staff use a well-developed key-person system, which helps to establish emotional bonds between the staff and children from the start. This supports children's security.
- Staff maintain a well-resourced and stimulating environment which helps to support children's learning inside and outdoors.
- Staff work well with parents to recognise children's needs and interests. They develop children's confidence together and prepare them for future learning.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

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

- provide Ofsted with the information to ensure that any person aged 16 and over, who is likely to have regular contact with children (including those working on the premises), are suitable through an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check in respect of that person, which includes all members of the committee.

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

- develop more opportunities for children to explore words and experiment with writing to enhance their play and learning experiences
- review daily routines to ensure younger children's care and learning is effectively supported during group activities.

### **To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:**

- implement effective systems to ensure any person who works on the premises where childcare is provided (including on a voluntary basis) is suitable to work with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that Ofsted is informed of any changes to the nominated person of the childcare provision, which includes details of all committee members (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- implement effective systems to ensure any person who works on the premises where childcare is provided (including on a voluntary basis) is suitable to work with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that Ofsted is informed of any changes to the nominated person of the childcare provision, which includes details of all committee members (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

## **Inspection activities**

- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including policies and children's development records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed adult-led and child-initiated activities in the inside and outside play spaces.
- The inspector discussed with parents and children their views about the pre-school.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff regarding individual children's development and welfare needs.

### **Inspector**

Amanda Vidler

## 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 of how to support children to develop in each of the learning areas. They recognise individual next steps and areas where support may be needed. Staff observe and assess children's achievements and development well. This ensures that children progress and are supported in developing skills for future learning. Children are learning to identify and use written text. However, staff do not consistently recognise opportunities to extend this into all aspects of children's play, to extend literacy development. Staff provide children with a range of opportunities to develop new skills and explore their own ideas. They encourage children to overcome challenges and try new things. Therefore, children become confident and independent learners. For example, staff use pictures to fully involve the children in reviewing the ingredients to make play dough. Staff support children to develop listening and attention skills through group activities. However, on some occasions, these activities fail to make the best use of encouraging younger children's participation and learning opportunities are missed.

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

Children are happy and confident; they chat to staff and their peers, and seek out support when required. Staff work with parents to gather a wide range of information about children's likes, dislikes and care needs. This ensures that staff have a good understanding of the individual children and offer appropriate support. Children are encouraged to be kind and considerate; they share and support each other during play. For example, without guidance, children waited for their turn on the slide. This means that children learn to interact positively with others. Staff encourage children to develop high levels of independence and self-care. They learn about the importance of healthy eating options during snack times. Teaching staff are invited to visit and trips to local schools help to ensure the move on to the next stage of children's learning is smooth.

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

The manager understands the safeguarding and welfare requirements overall. Staff understand their role in protecting children, including the reporting procedures if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The manager works in collaboration with other settings. This enables staff to attend training regularly and exchange information regarding aspects of practice. Staff have appropriate qualifications, which help to ensure they offer children appropriate support and new opportunities to learn. However, unsuccessful procedures to monitor committee members mean that not all suitability checks are yet obtained. The manager evaluates practice and monitors children's development to inform improvements.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	127606
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	836243
<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>	24
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	56
<b>Name of provider</b>	St Marys Playgroup Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	2 July 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	01795 536803

St Mary's Playgroup registered in 1985 and is located on the grounds of St Mary's of Chantry Primary School in Faversham, Kent. It is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 11.45am and 12.30pm to 3.30pm, term time only. The playgroup employs nine staff members; all but one have appropriate early years qualifications. The manager has a BA in Early Years and seven staff are qualified to Level 3. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two-, three- and four-years-old.

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2015

