

St Mary's Pre School

St. Mary 's Church Hall, 63 St. Mary's Road, London, SE15 2EA



Inspection date

18 May 2015

Previous inspection date

21 July 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

- Staff have a secure knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements. As a result, they plan and monitor children's learning effectively and children make good progress.
- Teaching highly motivates children to ensure that play opportunities are meaningful, varied and imaginative.
- Children explore and experiment freely with resources and staff enable children to take sensible risks. Consequently, children are extremely confident and develop very good independence skills, which promote their future learning and school readiness.
- Children form secure emotional attachments with their key person. This helps children to prepare emotionally for their next stage of learning.
- Comprehensive safeguarding procedures and staff's secure knowledge of their responsibility to report any concerns ensure that staff effectively safeguard children.
- Effective partnerships with parents, school teachers and other agencies help make a significant contribution to staff's success in meeting children's care, learning and development needs.
- Management effectively monitors staff practices and takes account of parents' views, in order to continue providing children with high quality of care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not fully encourage children to take part in activities in the garden throughout the year to raise their awareness of the natural world.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage children to investigate the natural world further in a range of different weathers, to extend their learning about plants and mini-beasts.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held meetings with the manager.
- The inspector sampled policies and procedures, staff suitability records, risk assessments, children's development records and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector observed activities in the indoor area.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Zalihe Mehmet-Emin

Inspection findings

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

Teaching is good because staff ensure that there is sufficient time and space for children to concentrate and complete activities. This allows children to explore their own interests and use their imagination exceedingly well. Children are able to express themselves through sensory play activities, such as scented play dough and colourful water play. This promotes children's physical, personal, social and emotional development. Children develop good communication and language skills because staff provide effective support. For example, staff ask children questions to help them think and learn as they play with the play dough. They encourage children to describe what they are doing and guess what the scent of the dough is. Staff complete accurate observations and assessments of children's learning. They effectively involve parents and take account of children's learning at home. Consequently, children make good progress towards the early learning goals.

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

Children learn about healthy lifestyles in positive ways. They enjoy healthy snacks, such as apples, grapes, bananas, and a variety of cooking activities. Children know what foods are healthy as they chat with staff and each other while eating. Children adopt good hygiene habits. They know to wash their hands after messy activities, using the toilet and before eating. Children's behaviour is good. They are encouraged by staff to use good manners and therefore, learn to share and take turns in their play. Children enjoy developing their physical skills outside. However, staff do not always provide children with opportunities to explore the natural world. For example, they do not always make the most of the weather, such as rain, to encourage children to learn about creatures and plants that come out in the rain, such as mini bugs and worms.

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

The management team understands its safeguarding responsibilities and implements rigorous and effective procedures. Staff and management keep their child protection and first-aid training up-to-date. Staff use risk assessment effectively to help ensure the premises are secure and well-maintained. The manager has robust recruitment, induction and performance management systems to drive improvement and safeguard children's welfare. For example, staff have regular supervision and a yearly appraisal. From this, management identifies and targets training needs, and reviews their practice. Recent training on special educational needs has helped the team to improve their planning for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Therefore, all children make good progress and are ready for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	107637
Local authority	Southwark
Inspection number	835792
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	St Marys Playgoup (Southwark and Lewisham) Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 July 2011
Telephone number	020 7277 6255

St Mary's Pre School registered in 1994. It operates from a church hall in Peckham in the London Borough of Southwark. The pre-school opens five days a week during school term times, from 9.30am until 12pm. The pre-school employs five members of staff, all of whom, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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