

St Thomas Pre School

St. Thomas Church Hall, York Buildings, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8PT



Inspection date

22 May 2015

Previous inspection date

24 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	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		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 registered person has failed to inform Ofsted of the details of the new committee members, as required. This is also a breach to the Childcare Register requirements.
- Staff do not always promote children's understanding of early mathematical ideas, so they learn about number, shape and size.

It has the following strengths

- Staff plan well to ensure that all children enjoy a wide range of activities and experiences that help them to learn, following their individual interests.
- Children are happy and confident in the pre-school, where they have warm and close relationships with the staff.
- Staff use risk assessments well for all areas of the pre-school and outdoors. As a result, they keep children safe and protected.
- Staff work well with parents and other professionals to ensure they support children's ongoing and changing needs.
- The staff team quality assure effectively to evaluate their work with the children. This ensures they continue to make improvements in the quality of their teaching.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements, with specific regard to informing Ofsted of significant changes including any change to the members of the management committee.

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

- strengthen opportunities to promote children's understanding of early mathematical ideas, so they learn about numbers, shape and size.

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

- ensure Ofsted is informed of the appointment of new members of the management committee and the new nominated person (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure Ofsted is informed of the appointment of new members of the management committee and the new nominated person (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff during a range of activities in the indoor and outdoor areas.
- The inspector looked at a sample of policies, children's learning records and planning documentation.
- The inspector discussed the outdoor activity with the manager and spoke to staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications and discussed the self-evaluation process.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to at the inspection.

Inspector

Judith Harris

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their observations and assessments of children's learning to get to know them well. As a result, they successfully help children learn and develop through activities that they enjoy and take an interest in. Staff engage children in conversations to promote their good language skills. For example, they involve children in a story telling activity in the garden. Staff introduce new words to help the children describe the different places they visit in the story. Staff make good use of whole group activities to help children focus on linking letters and sounds. Staff do not always promote children's early mathematical ideas, so they develop a secure understanding of numbers, shape and size. However, staff's overall teaching of the children ensures they gain good skills for the next stage in their learning.

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

Staff promote children's self-assurance well through their warm and nurturing relationships. Staff take particular care to ensure children with different abilities can freely choose the activities they want to take part in. Staff encourage children to learn how to manage their own safety. They provide children with healthy snacks and ensure they have daily exercise outdoors. Staff plan and provide experiences that sensitively promote children's personal independence. For example, with support, children learn to change their shoes and put on their coats for outdoor play. Staff praise the children for their achievements, which builds good confidence and self-esteem. Consequently, children gain the self-assurance needed for moving on to school.

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

The provider has failed to inform Ofsted of changes to the committee, which is an offence. However, they have completed checks to determine their suitability and, therefore, there is no significant impact on children's welfare. Staff have a clear understanding of the procedures to use if they have any safeguarding concerns about a child. Staff closely monitor and track children's progress, which ensures they are quickly able to identify and address any gaps in children's learning. Staff supervision, training and self-evaluation enable the pre-school to make continuous improvements. As a result, they have developed their skills for supporting children with different needs and abilities, helping all children to achieve. This also means they have addressed recommendations from previous inspections well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	145822
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	841709
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	18
Name of provider	St Thomas Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	24 May 2011
Telephone number	07989302662

St Thomas Pre-school registered in 1993 and is situated in Trowbridge in Wiltshire. The pre-school is open during school term time on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 3.30pm and on Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The management committee employ three members of staff. Two staff hold early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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.

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