

St Williams Pre-School

St Williams Church Hall, Walderslade Village, Chatham, Kent, ME5 9LR



Inspection date

2 June 2015

Previous inspection date

10 March 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

- The children are very happy and settled at the setting. They are imaginative in their play and have lots of opportunities to explore the good range of activities provided by staff. Children show confidence in the play choices they make.
- Staff use good conversational language with children. Children learn to extend their vocabulary well as they talk about subjects that interest them with staff. They also demonstrate a good interest in books and love to join in with storytelling.
- The provider promotes children's independence in their personal care skills. Children competently take themselves to the toilet and serve themselves at snack time.
- The provider and staff demonstrate a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in child protection and safeguarding children. They proficiently vet visitors to the setting, maintain children's personal records and are adept at keeping children safe. This means that they effectively promote children's well-being.
- The provider is able to maintain improvement in the setting by collecting the views of staff, parents and children. Her resulting action plans help her improve the outcomes for children; for example, providing children with new and interesting activities.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff provide a good range of activities outdoors concerning numbers and shapes. However, they do not include opportunities for children to learn about other mathematical ideas such as weight, volume and measurement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the use of mathematical language and experiences regarding weight, measurement and volume to help children understand, particularly in the outdoor area.

Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled a variety of paperwork including the pre-school's safeguarding policy and the children's progress records.
- The inspector talked to managers, staff, children and parents to gain their views of the setting.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a short joint observation of children using equipment in the garden area.
- The inspector observed the interaction between the staff and children during activities indoors and outside.

Inspector

Linda Coccia

Inspection findings

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

All children make good progress in their development and learning. This is because the well-qualified staff recognise children's individual interests and plan activities to cater for them. Children are very active in their physical play as they use a wide variety of equipment both indoors and outside. They play games with the large domino set and make their own obstacle courses with balance beams and large, soft play blocks. The staff have good relationships with local schools. They invite teachers to visit the children and staff accompany children to visit their allocated school. Staff ensure children are able to identify their name letter shapes, develop good listening skills and are able to work together to complete tasks. By helping to develop children's confidence in these areas, the staff prepare children to be emotionally ready for the upcoming changes in their lives.

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

Parents report they are very involved in the processes used to help their children settle in and support their emotional well-being. They talk to the key person about children's routines and interests. Parents can stay and play to help children become familiar with the staff and different routines. Staff discuss children's individual dietary needs with parents to ensure they know of any particular allergies or medical needs. Children eat nutritious food at snack times. They talk to staff about where different foods come from and which foods help them stay healthy. The provider carries out good risk assessments on the premises, toys and for any outings. Children learn to keep themselves safe in emergencies by practising the provider's good evacuation procedures on a regular basis.

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

The staff have good links with other health and education professionals to help support children who are not developing as expected. Staff work closely with parents and provide regular reviews of their children's learning. The provider and manager effectively monitor children's progress. This ensures that all children, given their starting points and capabilities, make good progress. The provider is effective in meeting her responsibility towards staff professional development, such as regular supervision meetings. Staff attend selected workshops and courses, and share information with colleagues. Recent training about outdoor learning has improved outcomes for children. This is because staff are more aware of the learning opportunities to be had in the outside area. They know how to use the weather for learning experiences. It also means children have more choice about playing outdoors and more opportunities to explore the natural world.

Setting details

Unique reference number	103853
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	839262
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	69
Name of provider	Anouska Joyce
Date of previous inspection	10 March 2011
Telephone number	01634 669404 and mobile 07967 442 825

St Williams Pre-School registered in 1998. It operates from three rooms in a church complex in Walderslade, Kent. The pre-school opens each weekday, Monday and Thursday from 9.15am until 12 noon, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.15am until 3pm. It operates term time only. The pre-school receives funding for children aged two, three and four years old to provide free nursery education. There are eight members of staff who work directly with the children. There are two staff who hold a recognised early years qualification at Level 5 and six staff at Level 3.

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