

St James with St Lukes Pre-School

St. James Church, Perry Road, HARLOW, Essex, CM18 7NP



Inspection date

4 June 2015

Previous inspection date

1 December 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 provide a wide range of activities that promote children's learning. Consequently, children are enthusiastic learners who are keen to explore and investigate.
- Children are happy, confident and secure because staff sensitively settle children into the pre-school and build positive relationships with them.
- Staff make very clear their expectations for children's behaviour and this means that children behave well and respond positively to others.
- Staff establish strong and trusting partnerships with parents. They work closely with parents and other professionals to support children's individual care, development and learning needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, less-experienced staff do not always give children time to think about their responses to questions that they ask, so that children can put their thoughts into words as part of their language development.
- Outdoor opportunities across all areas of learning are not fully explored, particularly for older children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance teaching strategies so that all staff consistently give children thinking time to put their thoughts into words, to further support children's language development
- enhance the outdoor area to provide a wider and more challenging range of experiences, particularly for the older children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the pre-school and talked with the staff.
- The inspector and manager undertook a joint observation of a teaching activity.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.
- The inspector reviewed the provider's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

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

Staff know children extremely well because they take time to meet them and their parents, gathering information that helps children settle quickly. Staff regularly observe children and effectively use these observations to plan individual next steps in their learning. Children enjoy both leading their own play and taking part in activities, guided by adults. Staff interactions with children are strong. They talk to children and use open-ended questioning to extend their communication and language. However, on occasions less-experienced staff pose questions but do not wait for the children's response, which hampers children's time to think about their reply. Staff skilfully extend children's learning as they introduce simple mathematical concepts of shape and size. For example, while building models using construction blocks, staff encourage children to talk about the colour, shape and size of the models they are making. As a result, children enhance their early mathematical development and are gaining skills which help prepare them for their next stage of learning.

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

Children receive a warm and friendly welcome to the pre-school. Children demonstrate a positive approach to learning, supported by the cheerful interactions of the staff team caring for them. Staff support children's emerging understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle that involves physical exercise and a healthy diet. Children benefit from regular fresh air and exercise during outdoor play. They play outside on a daily basis and the outdoor area promotes children's developing physical skills and confidence. Children choose from a range of physical play equipment, including wheeled toys, hoops and balls, and some equipment to support all areas of learning is readily accessible for children to self-select. However, there is scope to extend the range of resources outdoors to provide a more challenging range of experiences, particularly for the older children.

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

The provider and staff have a good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures and are aware of their responsibilities in this respect. Secure arrangements are in place for the recruitment of staff and all are vetted to ensure they are safe to care for children. The manager monitors the educational programmes, ensuring that children's needs are clearly identified and continually met. She and her staff team demonstrate a commitment to the continual development of the whole provision and continue to identify priorities for improvement. The manager monitors staff performance, both informally through working alongside the staff and more formally through annual appraisals. Staff are supported to attend relevant courses and gain additional qualifications to improve their knowledge and the quality of provision for the children. The manager uses regular staff meetings to discuss and share any ideas and practice issues, to further promote effective outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY428389
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	852876
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	53
Name of provider	St. James' With St. Luke's Pre-School
Date of previous inspection	1 December 2011
Telephone number	07932213960

St James with St Lukes Pre-School registered in 2011. The pre-school employs nine members of childcare staff, six of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The pre-school opens during school term times, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 12noon and from 12.45pm until 3.45pm; on Wednesday from 12.30pm until 3.30pm and on Friday from 9am to 12noon.

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