

Our Lady's Pre-School

St Joseph's RCP School, Springhead Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 9QZ



Inspection date	18 June 2015
Previous inspection date	1 May 2012

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		Outstanding	1
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 complete regular assessments of children's learning and identify children's next development steps. This helps ensure they make good progress from their starting point. Staff share children's achievements with parents so they are well-informed.
- Staff and management liaise with other professionals, when appropriate, to seek further support for some children. Therefore, learning gaps are closing and children's individual needs are met well.
- Management and staff are clear about possible child protection issues. They know the procedure to follow should they have concerns about children. This promotes the welfare of children.
- Staff provide opportunities for children to engage in physical activities both indoors and outdoors. They enjoy a variety of nutritious snacks and drinks. This effectively promotes their physical well-being and good health.
- Management and staff work closely with professionals in other early years settings that some children attend. They share appropriate information about children's development and care needs. Therefore, they support children well and this helps ensure they continue to make good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always challenge and promote children's mathematical knowledge to build on what they know.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure staff provide more opportunities for children to build on their mathematical knowledge.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children's interaction both indoors and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager and discussed the impact on children's learning and development.
- The inspector discussed the setting's self-evaluation process, spoke to children, parents and staff.
- The inspector sampled some documents, including staff qualifications, suitability checks and paediatric first-aid certificates.
- The inspector discussed children's progress and sampled some learning records.

Inspector

Alberta Minta-Jacobs

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff encourage children to access resources and play with equipment independently, both indoors and outdoors. Therefore, this encourages children to make choices about their learning. Children develop confidence as they explore the environment and make use of their imagination in different play situations. Staff provide a good balance of learning activities that ensures that children enjoy learning. The staff team includes those who are suitably qualified and others with good experience. They support children's learning through a robust understanding of how children learn. They organise and adapt the environment and play equipment to support children's interests. For example, they encouraged children to select from a variety of materials to create a church tower. Staff extended children's learning as they explored different textures and made links with the local community. Children develop the skills and attitudes they need for the next stage in their learning or for the move to school.

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

Staff provide a highly stimulating environment. They provide an excellent range of play equipment and toys to promote all children's development. Staff complete comprehensive safety checks and risk assessments. This creates an extremely safe environment for children. Children learn to take appropriate risks and keep themselves and others safe. They respond particularly well to praise as they learn to share, take turns and work together. As a result, children's behaviour is excellent. Staff skilfully engage with parents to understand and meet children's needs through the key-person system. As a result, children form extremely secure emotional bonds with a familiar adult.

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

The provider has a good understanding of the requirements of Early Years Foundation Stage. They have addressed all previous recommendations effectively. The management continues to review and improve the quality of the pre-school through continuous development. They have a clear overview of all children's learning to ensure they make good progress. The management discusses any concerns with staff during supervision meetings. They access further training for staff to improve their knowledge. For example, staff attended training that helped them effectively promote children's well-being. Staff and management value the views and opinions of parents, children and staff in identifying areas for further improvements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127424
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840655
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	Our Lady's PreSchool Committee
Date of previous inspection	1 May 2012
Telephone number	01474 365 877

Our Lady's PreSchool registered in 2000. It operates from Northfleet in Kent. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday from 9am to 3.30pm, term time only. It receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The pre-school employs nine members of staff, six of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. This includes one member of staff with a level 6 and two staff with a level 3 qualification.

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