

St Mary's Playgroup

St Mary of the Crays, Church Centre, 114 Old Road, Crayford, Kent, DA1 4DZ



Inspection date	30 June 2015
Previous inspection date	14 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		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 use information from parents and their own observations to assess children's level of development when they start. As a result, they are able to organise learning experiences to meet children's individual needs which helps them to make good progress.
- Staff liaise with outside agencies to provide support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Therefore, children make progress towards the early learning goals and learning gaps are closing.
- Management and staff attend safeguarding training. They understand the correct child protection procedures and are able to make referrals should they have concerns about the welfare of children in their care.
- Staff provide unlimited opportunities for children to play outside and enjoy a choice of healthy snacks. This supports their physical well-being and good health.
- Management and staff share children's developmental records with professionals in other settings that children attend. Therefore, promoting continuity in care and learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes complete tasks for young children during adult-led activities which means that children are not able to choose their own resources or use their imaginations to create art work.
- Staff do not always provide a wide range of opportunities to enable children to practise their early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of group activities to enable children to develop their imaginative skills and independence in choosing their own resources
- increase opportunities for children to consistently develop their early writing skills during planned activities and those they choose for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a range of activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the provider and discussed the impact of teaching on children's progress.
- The inspector sampled some documents including children's learning records, suitability checks, staff qualifications and paediatric first-aid certificates.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff and discussed the self-evaluation process.

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

Staff provide a wide range of learning experiences indoors and outside that reflect children's interests and styles of learning. Therefore, children are enthusiastic and enjoy their learning. Staff encourage children to explore activities, play equipment and resources on their own. Consequently, this helps to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Staff are well-qualified and experienced. They regularly observe and assess children's learning through play and address the next steps in their learning in the planning. They share children's achievements and progress with parents so they are able to consistently support their children's learning at home. Staff encourage children to participate in adult-led activities. As a result, they are able to teach them new skills. Therefore, children learn the skills to be ready for school or the next stage in their learning and development. The quality of teaching is good overall.

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

Staff provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment through completing daily safety checks and risk assessments. As a result, children are confident to explore their environment independently. They learn to manage their own hygiene and personal needs through support, which helps to prepare them for school. Staff support children's care and learning and development needs well through a strong key-person system. They liaise with the parents to find out about children's likes and dislikes, which enables children to form good relationships with them. Children behave well; they understand boundaries staff set and are happy. This supports their emotional well-being.

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

The provider understands her responsibility to meet the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and has successfully met all previous recommendations. The provider monitors the educational programme and maintains the good quality of teaching through a system of continuous professional development and supervision sessions. Staff access further training through links with other professionals and the local authority. For example, staff have attended training to develop their knowledge of promoting children's communication and language further. The management regularly monitors children's progress and seeks further support in collaboration with parents; therefore, improving learning outcomes for children. They engage in discussions and seek feedback from parents, children and staff, and highlight priorities for improvement through their self-evaluation.

Setting details

Unique reference number	115372
Local authority	Bexley
Inspection number	839989
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	44
Name of provider	St Mary's Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	14 May 2012
Telephone number	01322555894

St Mary's Playgroup registered 1974. It operates from a church hall in Crayford, in the London Borough of Bexley. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday from 8.20am to 3pm. It receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three-, and four-year-old children. The playgroup employs six members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff holds an early years foundation degree.

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