

Swan Street Pre-School

61 Swan Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6LW



Inspection date

30 June 2015

Previous inspection date

10 January 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 staff have good, trusting relationships with the children. They meet their individual needs well and effectively support children's well-being. Therefore, children develop a good sense of belonging.
- Staff maintain good partnerships with parents. They regularly ensure that parents feel included and well informed about their children's development. This strengthens consistency in children's learning.
- The staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding and child protection procedures. As a result, they help keep all children safe.
- The staff encourage all children to develop social skills and future life skills. Consequently, children develop good independence skills, which prepare them well for school.
- The staff effectively introduce mathematical concepts through play. Consequently, children show a keen interest in and develop a good understanding of mathematics.
- Staff use effective strategies to successfully support children who have additional needs. This helps all children to make good progress in their learning.
- The management team is determined to make continuous improvements. It uses a variety of effective ways to evaluate practice. Staff demonstrate a dedication to provide a high quality learning environment and opportunities for all children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always further develop children's early letter recognition to help them choose resources more easily in the learning environments.
- Staff supervise children well. However, on occasions they do not always deploy themselves effectively outdoors to fully interact with children in their activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the deployment of staff to ensure that they fully interact and support children in their activities outdoors
- extend further opportunities for children to develop early letter recognition to help them choose resources more easily.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the pre-school that children use.
- The inspector observed staff interacting with the children.
- The inspector sampled written documentation; including children's progress reports, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff, gathered parents' views and considered these.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

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 stimulating activities to engage children's learning and development. Staff join in with their play to extend learning. For example, during children's role play activities, they acted out their experiences and staff joined in making links to the real world and extending their ideas. Staff use a variety of techniques to develop children's communication, speaking and listening skills. For example, staff use thought-provoking questions to challenge children's thinking and to help them solve problems. During a water play activity, staff encouraged children to actively explore and investigate. Staff actively involve parents in their children's learning. For example, staff encourage them to contribute to their children's learning journeys and share resources such as books at home. Parents speak positively of the daily communication staff provide and their level of involvement. As a result of the clear links between home and pre-school, all children make good progress in their learning and development.

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

Staff maintain good relationships with children as they have a good knowledge of the children and their individual interests. Consequently, children arrive confidently and are happy to settle. Staff help children to develop good physical skills and plan activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. For example, children develop their coordination and confidently climb and balance. Children learn to have a sense of empathy towards others and offer conversations and hugs. Staff talk to children about the importance of caring for other living things. For example, children explore the bug hotels and place bugs back in them to 'find their mummies'.

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

Management effectively monitors the provision regularly. It carries out risk assessments to ensure that the pre-school is safe and secure. Management makes positive changes to improve the environments and the quality of teaching. For example, from attending training for two-year-olds, the management has restructured opening and closing times and reviewed the resources to fully support the settling and engagement of the younger children. Management completes audits and with parent and staff input it continues to evaluate the practice. Management follows thorough procedures to ensure the suitability of staff. It supports staff's professional development well, through training and two-way discussions. This has a positive impact on the learning outcomes for all children, who are motivated by the implemented new ideas. Management accurately monitors children's progress and it supports children with additional needs well. As a result, all children make good developmental progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127667
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840693
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	West Malling Baptist Church Committee
Date of previous inspection	10 January 2011
Telephone number	01732 875678

Swan Street Pre-School opened in 1970. It operates from two rooms in the Baptist Church building in the village centre of West Malling in Kent. The pre-school receives early education funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds. The pre-school is open two mornings a week from 9am to 12pm on Monday and Friday and it operates all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 3pm. The pre-school employs seven members of staff, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications.

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