

St Josephs Nursery Group

Berkshire Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 5JJ



Inspection date

1 July 2015

Previous inspection date

10 November 2010

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

- Children's social and emotional development are well supported. They learn good manners and speak to each other respectfully. This creates a calm and purposeful environment and children's behaviour is excellent.
- Children have daily opportunities to use print in a variety of contexts. This extends their awareness that print carries meaning and their early literacy skills. This helps give children some of the skills they need for their future learning and move up to school.
- Staff plan for, and provide, a large variety of exciting and challenging learning opportunities. Children make good use of all the areas available to them and freely choose from a large range of toys and resources that support their play.
- Children flourish because the staff know each child well. Strong attachments with staff ensure children are happy, secure, fully involved and confident.
- The manager has a well-developed understanding of the strengths and areas for development in the nursery. This means she is able to address issues as they arise and ensure they make consistent progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although, parents share information each day with the staff, they do not consistently receive information about their children's achievements and how they extend their children's learning further at home.
- Staff, on occasion, do not use questioning techniques that encourage children to share their thoughts and ideas with more than a nod or one word answer, to extend the children's thinking and understanding further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the already good partnerships with parents by sharing more information about their children's interests and achievements so these can be further extended at home
- extend children's learning further by enhancing the consistency in the quality of questioning staff use to encourage children to share their thoughts and knowledge.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at free play and in group times, and staff interactions with them.
- The inspector sampled documents including policies, registers and records of children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took into account their views.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector and manager conducted a joint observation.

Inspector

Natasha Crellin

Inspection findings

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

The manager and the staff have a good understanding of how to promote children's learning. They plan interesting and challenging activities that keep children focused and engaged. The quality of teaching is good overall and staff help children make consistent progress. Staff use different activities to extend children's mathematical skills. For example, they encourage children to count the total number of coloured disks that they are sorting onto pegs. Children develop their creative skills, for example, as they paint and make use of materials in a well-stocked craft table. Staff frequently engage children in conversation during their play and activities and, overall, use effective questioning techniques to engage them. Children enjoy daily opportunities to play outside. This provides them with fresh air and opportunities to use their physical skills as they run about, kick balls, climb small play equipment and ride about on tricycles and wheeled toys.

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

Staff have a strong focus on developing children's social, emotional and self-care skills. Children are cooperative, polite, confident and independent, and these skills help prepare them well for moving on to school or other settings. Parents are highly satisfied with the provision for their children. They receive regular verbal feedback about their children's progress. Staff create a stimulating environment with interesting resources that children can reach for themselves. This enables them to develop their own play. Staff deploy themselves well indoors and out, and ensure children are supervised while playing on large equipment. This enables them to take safe risks and develop an understanding of their physical boundaries.

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

Recruitment procedures are robust and all staff have undergone the necessary vetting checks to help ensure they are suitable to work with children. Staff regularly attend safeguarding training and understand the process to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Staff are vigilant to risks and hazards, and constantly monitor the hall and the garden to ensure children are safe. They work closely with other agencies, such as speech therapists, to ensure children receive targeted support when necessary. The manager supports staff with their professional development through regular discussions and by identifying training needs through regular supervision. Staff use their knowledge from training to improve their practice and the provision. Constant reflection and the drive towards continual development of the nursery means children are provided with a safe and well-organised learning environment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	116839
Local authority	Reading
Inspection number	846118
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	Maureen Petersen
Date of previous inspection	10 November 2010
Telephone number	0118 9413602

St Josephs Nursery Group registered in 1987 and operates from St Joseph's Catholic Church hall in Tilehurst, Berkshire. The nursery is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 8.55am to 12.15pm during term time only. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged three and four years old. The nursery employs four members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications, including the manager who holds Qualified Teacher Status.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

