

St. Charles' Catholic Pre-School



Bosworth Road, Measham, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 7LQ

Inspection date 29 June 2015
Previous inspection date 19 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children show they feel extremely safe, secure and happy in the pre-school and arrangements for safeguarding the children are robust.
- The pre-school uses highly successful strategies to engage parents in their children's learning, ensuring key information is shared between them.
- An extremely effective key-person system that clearly works in practice, provides children with stability. This also helps them to form positive relationships and gain confidence and self-esteem.
- Children's learning and development is closely monitored through precise assessment and includes all those involved in their learning. Consequently, the planning is sharply focused and leads to rapid development for children, taking account of their starting points. This means children acquire the key skills to prepare them for school.
- Staff provide an exceptional range of high-quality learning experiences, both indoors and outdoors. As a result, children are confident and highly motivated to explore.
- The partnerships established with other agencies are excellent and help to support every child to learn and develop to the highest level.
- Recommendations raised at the last inspection have been very well addressed. The manager and her staff, along with members of the committee, demonstrate an uncompromising commitment towards achieving excellence in all areas.
- Excellent relationships are in place with local schools that children will attend. Children have many opportunities to visit schools throughout the year and teachers visit the pre-school to get to know the children ready for when they start their school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to extend opportunities for children's imaginative and creative play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main playroom, outside play areas and on the school field.
- The inspector spoke with staff, members of the committee, visitors and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a wide range of documents, including planning, self-evaluation form, a selection of policies and children's learning journals.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff to working with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents through recently completed questionnaires, written notes and those spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Cathryn Wilkinson

Inspection findings

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

Staff's knowledge of the children is first class. All staff know all the children extremely well. They know what it is that children are interested in because they constantly talk to them and watch them play. Children are interested in dragons and staff provide resources for them to create a huge, life-size dragon. Children enthusiastically paint it, add wings and then imaginatively fly together around the playground. Other children want to escape from the dragon and staff respond by providing large boxes and together they make a large castle to hide in. Children skilfully use scissors and pens to make shields and swords to extend their imaginative play. Children's numeracy skills are continually extended as they play skittles with staff. Children count the skittles and staff ask them question about the game, 'Are there more skittles left standing or have you knocked more over?' Children choose their own resources from an extensive range, both indoors and outdoors. The manager recognises the value of extending their imaginative and creative play by extending the range of natural resources for them to choose from.

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

Children are exceptionally well cared for. New children settle very quickly as staff allow them time to explore at their own pace. Parents are reassured because staff share photographs with them of their children playing during their first sessions. Staff are extremely good role models and continually play alongside children, talking together to extend children's vocabulary. They help children understand the need to share and take turns. Very quickly children understand routines, such as waiting for their turn on the computer. Children's good health is promoted very well. They help prepare fresh fruit for snack while they are taught to take care and use sharp knives safely. Staff continually use these routines to extend children's learning further. Children read numbers next to the fruit to know how many to take and use tongs and spoons to serve themselves.

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

The inspiring commitment of the manager and staff that is fully supported by a very active committee, underpins a shared vision for achieving very high standards. Staff are well qualified. Highly effective arrangements for recruiting new staff, regular supervisions and appraisals supports excellent practice. All staff work together to analyse children's assessments, which means potential difficulties are recognised and can be met quickly. Parents speak very highly of the children's ongoing learning records, opportunities to discuss progress at parents' evenings and daily contact they have with staff. Parents say they feel constantly in the loop. Summaries of progress for all children are continually shared with parents. This means everyone can work together to promote the very best learning outcomes for children. Excellent practice is shared when staff attend training so children continually benefit from new ideas. The committee works tirelessly to ensure statutory requirements are consistently met and additionally organise many social family events.

Setting details

Unique reference number	226235
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	864367
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	14
Number of children on roll	32
Name of provider	St. Charles' Catholic Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	19 June 2009
Telephone number	01530 515284

St. Charles' Catholic Pre-School was registered in 1982. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and 3. The pre-school is open everyday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 3.30pm on Monday, 9am until 12pm and 12.30pm until 3.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 9am until 12pm on Friday. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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