

St. Mary's Nursery

St. Mary's College, Shear Brow, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 8DX



Inspection date

7 August 2015

Previous inspection date

11 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- All staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn. They talk to children in an animated and enthusiastic way, skilfully adapting their language and responses to the right level for each child. They meticulously plan stimulating, meaningful activities which support all children to make rapid progress.
- Children develop extremely secure, close relationships with staff. They are all highly motivated and fully engaged in a wide range of high-quality experiences.
- Children are supported exceptionally well to develop a clear understanding of routines and boundaries. They cooperate admirably with each other and their behaviour is exemplary.
- A range of innovative methods are used to support children and their parents to understand how to keep themselves safe and healthy.
- The dedicated manager is passionate about continually evaluating, improving and updating all aspects of practice in the nursery.
- Excellent systems are in place to ensure all staff have appropriate training, professional development and support so that they fully understand their roles and responsibilities. This ensures all staff maintain high expectations of themselves and the children.
- Robust tracking systems are used to rigorously monitor children's progress. Gaps in learning are identified and interventions implemented.
- Children's safety and well-being are central to the outstanding care and education staff provide.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider how opportunities can be extended for the babies to have greater choices in accessing the outdoor play area.

Inspection activities

- The inspector undertook a tour of the premises.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff, parents and children.
- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching in all playrooms and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a sample of children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.

Inspector

Mary Lewis

Inspection findings

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

The extremely well-qualified staff consistently use their expert knowledge and understanding of how children learn to provide challenging, high-quality teaching and learning experiences. The strong emphasis on promoting the characteristics of effective learning ensures all children are always highly motivated and eager to learn. For example, when they are engaged in an innovative, adult-led small-group activity promoting language, or a self-chosen activity in the vibrant outdoor area. However, for very young children access to the outdoor area is not as well thought out. Very close working relationships with a range of other professionals and parents ensure all children's needs are remarkably well met. Rigorous assessments of children are completed with valued input from parents. This ensures individual needs are quickly identified and exceptionally well planned for, so all children make excellent progress.

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

The enthusiasm of staff and consistent, positive engagement with children help them to feel thoroughly safe and secure. Consequently, they develop high levels of self-confidence. Staff perceptively follow babies' individual sleep patterns and gently support them to sleep when they are ready. A strong emphasis on developing children's independence and managing risk is promoted throughout the highly stimulating environment and well-thought-out routines. For example, the accessible resources in the baby room and the innovative dedicated play areas in the pre-school room. Children and parents learn about healthy options for drinks from an inspiring display. Additionally, young children learn about hygiene routines when they are absorbed in an activity regarding brushing teeth. The transition to school is exceptionally well planned for. Children look at photographs of the schools they are going to and build models of them. Information about their progress, interests and needs is shared with schools, and staff work closely together with parents. As a consequence, children are especially well prepared for school and their future learning.

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

The manager's pursuit of excellence is evident throughout the setting. Her expert understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the consistently high levels of exemplary practice are maintained and improved through a highly effective system of staff monitoring, supervision and professional development. Rigorous assessment and tracking systems are in place to ensure all groups of children are making the best possible progress. Excellent safeguarding procedures are monitored and implemented very effectively. The manager ensures she is always up to date with any new initiatives and proactively engages with schemes which will improve practice and have a positive impact on children's well-being and achievement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY262363
Local authority	Blackburn
Inspection number	848438
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	139
Name of provider	St. Mary's College
Date of previous inspection	11 November 2011
Telephone number	01254 586 996

St. Mary's Nursery was registered in 2003 and is run by the governing body of St Mary's College. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6, one holds level 5, 11 hold level 3 and one holds level 2. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm, except for bank holidays and a week over the Christmas period. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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