

Cherubs at St Thomas'

St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 1YG



Inspection date

19 August 2015

Previous inspection date

10 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 provide good quality of teaching. Children are happy, confident and make good progress in their learning.
- The children form warm and secure attachments with their key person and other staff, which supports children's well-being and helps them to become independent learners.
- Staff are well qualified and experienced. The management team encourages the staff's professional development. They have a secure knowledge of child development and provide a good range of learning experiences for children.
- Staff support children's communication and language well. Staff offer good individual support, tailored to each child's needs. Consequently, children become confident communicators and staff prepare them well for their future learning and school.
- The partnership with parents is very effective. Staff use a variety of ways to communicate with parents about their children. This flexible approach helps to provide consistency in children's care and learning at the nursery and at home.
- The management team provide robust safeguarding training. All staff regularly attend training to keep their knowledge up to date. As a result, they help to ensure children's welfare and children learn in a safe environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff do not always ask children challenging questions to help them think, resolve problems and come up with their own ideas.
- Staff do not always extend older children's mathematical skills, such as helping them use mathematical language to talk about size, weight and capacity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ask children more challenging questions to help them think and come up with solutions to their problems during their play and everyday activities
- provide more opportunities for older children to build on their mathematical skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with children during a number of activities, both inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke with staff, parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked a selection of records and documentation.
- The inspector interviewed the manager and provider.

Inspector

Susan Allen

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff make good use of observation and assessment to plan activities to extend each child's learning. Children are motivated and beginning to become independent learners. Staff teach children a good range of skills that will help them in preparation for their move to school. The staff make good use of their outdoor area and encourage children to explore and make sense of the world around them. For example, children learn about growth and decay when they water plants and remove the plants dead heads. Staff read stories that help children to build on their vocabulary and they have opportunities to use pencils alongside their play, which develops their early writing skills.

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

Staff use firmly established routines to promote children's understanding of good health. For example, they teach children good hygiene practices, such as washing hands after toileting. In addition, staff help children learn how to keep cool in the hot weather, by drinking water and wearing sun hats. Staff discuss healthy eating practices and have successfully implemented a healthy eating programme involving parents. As a result, children understand how to make healthy food choices. Teaching helps children to have a very positive attitude to being outdoors and physical activities, which promotes their physical development and well-being. Children are learning to move skilfully and negotiate space successfully as they race each other on a variety of wheeled bicycles. Children are confident, polite and friendly. Staff are very good role models, respectful and patient. Consequently, children's behaviour is good; they take turns, negotiate and begin to understand the needs of others.

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

The management team constantly strives to make improvements. They provide extremely good supervision for staff. Management use staff's individual strengths and help to identify additional support to build on their good practice. The provider reflects on the provision and drives improvement. For example, the recent implementation of a speech and language unit has helped staff provide additional support for children's communication and language. The management team monitors all aspects of the provision, including tracking the progress of children achievements. This helps to ensure staff identify any gaps in children's learning and plan effectively to help close any gaps quickly. The management team has a robust system to review safeguarding practices. All staff are aware of their responsibility to protect children from harm and abuse, and they know how to report any concerns. Therefore, staff effectively support children's safety and well-being.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY266815
Local authority	Merton
Inspection number	987906
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	80
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	Cherubs Childcare Ltd
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2009
Telephone number	0208 648 0869 (school) 02086859955 (DC)

Cherubs at St Thomas' registered in 2003. It operates from the St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School in Mitcham, Surrey. It is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. The setting also provides wrap-around-care for children that attend the primary school. There are 15 staff all hold relevant qualifications from level 3 to level 6. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four.

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