

# Portico at St Johns

St. Johns Childrens Centre, Birch Green Road, SKELMERSDALE, Lancashire, WN8 6JJ



## Inspection date

28 August 2015

Previous inspection date

30 January 2012

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is outstanding

- Children are extremely happy, interested and self-assured in the stimulating and welcoming nursery. They have strong attachments to staff who are very caring and attentive to their individual needs. Children are able to explore the environment with confidence and are emotionally secure.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. They know children very well and provide rich and challenging learning experiences. This helps children make extremely good progress and be well prepared for their future learning, including their move to school.
- The quality of teaching is of a consistently high standard. Staff make excellent use of accurate observations and assessments to plan activities that successfully capture children's interests. Children are independent learners and concentrate on their chosen activities, displaying high levels of concentration and engagement.
- Arrangements to promote children's safety and well-being are extremely robust. The manager takes the lead responsibility for child protection and regularly attends training to equip her for this role. She ensures that staff have a thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities through regular training, meetings and professional discussions.
- The manager and her staff team have high expectations and constantly strive for excellence. Meticulous and effective self-evaluation and a clear vision that is understood by all staff, leads to continuous improvement of the nursery and the setting of inspirational targets.
- The highly motivated and driven management team lead with vigour and determination. All staff are extremely committed to providing challenging and unique learning experiences for all children in their care.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider using a variety of methods to further enhance the quality of teaching, in order to share high levels of expertise and experience.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interaction of staff and children during a range of activities indoors and outdoors and had a tour of the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a selection of records and other documentation including the suitability of staff and children's learning records.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of inspection.

### Inspector

Karen Cox

## Inspection findings

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

All staff hold childcare qualifications and use their excellent knowledge of how children learn to provide a wonderful range of learning opportunities based on children's interests. Staff use limitless opportunities to extend children's learning which is supported by precise and sharply focused planning, observation and assessment. Children have numerous opportunities to develop their literacy skills and practice their early writing. Children delight in reading stories and understand that print carries meaning. They show increasing confidence in recognising the sounds that letters make. Children develop essential skills for the future as they are inquisitive, ask questions and solve problems. They learn to be patient, take turns and develop their social skills as they engage in meaningful conversation with others. Staff place a high priority on developing the communication and language skills of babies. Their interactions are highly sensitive and supportive, repeating words to help reinforce children's understanding. Regular exchanges of information about children's achievements and parents' positive contributions to children's assessments help to support children's learning at home.

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

Babies and children are wonderfully supported to settle into the nursery when they first start and their emotional security is promoted exceptionally well. Children demonstrate strong independence skills and have an excellent understanding of self-care. They serve themselves at mealtimes and engage in conversation about healthy foods and the importance of drinking water. Staff's teaching is highly successful in developing children's understanding of a safe and healthy lifestyle. Children regularly practise fire drills and are encouraged to identify potential hazards before playing in the outdoor area. This level of responsibility begins to prepare children well for school and strengthens their understanding of how to keep themselves safe. Children enjoy a vast array of physical activities indoors and outdoors, as they dance, run, balance and climb. Staff are superb role models and provide clear and consistent guidance to promote children's positive behaviour.

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

Leadership is inspirational. The manager has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has implemented thorough procedures to monitor the quality of the educational programme. Highly effective analysis of assessment information helps staff to recognise any potential learning needs and quickly meet these. The manager carries out regular supervisions of staff. However, she is considering further methods to further share expertise with staff to enhance the outstanding quality of teaching. Highly effective partnership working with other professionals helps to provide consistency in children's care and learning. Parents are delighted with the service they receive and are very complimentary about the nursery.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY420108
<b>Local authority</b>	Lancashire
<b>Inspection number</b>	852060
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 17
<b>Total number of places</b>	52
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	85
<b>Name of provider</b>	Portico Day Nurseries Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	30 January 2012
<b>Telephone number</b>	01695 555503

Portico at St Johns was registered in 2011. The nursery is one of seven settings run by a limited company. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with Early Years Teacher Status. The nursery opens each weekday, from 7.30am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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