

Haycorns Pre-School

St. Marys Catholic First School,, Lucetta Lane, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2DD



Inspection date

2 October 2015

Previous inspection date

13 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Leadership and management is strong. A positive approach is given to supporting and developing practice. Management and staff frequently evaluate the success of play activities and how children learn. As a result, continual improvements are made.
- Teaching is consistently good. For example, staff ask children questions that challenge their thinking and effectively extend their play. This helps children develop their curiosity and motivates their learning. Consequently, children make good progress.
- Children are very much welcomed and their individuality valued at this friendly pre-school. Staff interact positively with children, providing a friendly, reassuring approach. This helps children gain confidence, feel safe and promotes their emotional well-being.
- Management and staff work very well together as a team. They continually review and develop their knowledge of child development to successfully promote outcomes for children.
- Staff support children's communication skills extremely well. They give a strong focus to developing children's vocabulary and understanding through positive reinforcement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff give children warning of changes in activities but, at times, some changes still disrupt their concentration and enjoyment of their play.
- Staff form good liaison with some agencies involved in children's care and initiate contact with other early years settings that children attend. However, they do not always follow up any lack of response. This does not fully promote continuity in children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of some routines to minimise interruptions to children's play and fully support their concentration and enjoyment, particularly with activities of their choice
- develop further ways of liaising with other early years settings children attend, to fully promote a consistent approach to children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's interactions in their play indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector sampled documentation, such as operational policies and procedures, and required records.
- The inspector had discussions with management and staff.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken with at the visit.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Mary Daniel

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Management and staff have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Management implements clear policies and procedures, including detailed recruitment, employment, induction and supervision processes. This helps leaders to continually assess staff suitability, effectively support individual expertise, and improve quality. Safeguarding is effective. Staff complete thorough risk assessments and particular priority is given to security. Management ensures staff have a good awareness of safeguarding issues through regular training and discussions. Staff understand how to manage any concerns arising, which helps to effectively protect children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations of children's play successfully to plan stimulating play experiences. For example, children enjoyed a train ride to a beach. They learnt about their natural world as they searched for shells, built sandcastles and paddled in the sea. Staff create safe, vibrant and well-organised play areas indoors and outdoors, where children learn through exploration and discovery. Staff make good use of training, for instance, to develop more effective ways of promoting children's mathematical awareness. Children concentrate very well as they sort, match and group attractive and interesting resources. Staff promote inclusion and develop children's communication skills, such as using a simple sign language to help children understand. Management and staff frequently monitor children's development and identify areas to support to ensure their continual progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff get to know children very well and provide excellent care. Parents state staff are wonderful and they feel very supported in settling their child, and are kept fully informed of children's activities. Children show great pride in taking responsibility, such as being a helper. For example, they help prepare fruit for snack time. They develop very good hand-eye coordination, for instance, as they carefully use child-sized knives to spread butter on their toast. Staff clearly emphasise healthy living practices with children. For example, staff have developed the garden area so children benefit from lots of outdoor learning and successfully promote their physical well-being. Staff consistently encourage good behaviour, respect for others and help children know what is expected of them.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff give clear emphasis to helping children develop the key skills they need for their move to school. Children develop very good independence and social skills and learn to play cooperatively. All children make positive progress as staff successfully support them in reaching typical levels of development. Consequently, positive outcomes are promoted.

Setting details

Unique reference number	139340
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	836558
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	The Haycorns Association Committee
Date of previous inspection	13 July 2010
Telephone number	01305 257393

Haycorns Pre-School registered in 1988. It is a parent committee pre-school and operates from premises situated in the grounds of St Mary's Catholic First School in Dorchester, Dorset. The pre-school is open each weekday during term time only, from 9am to 3pm. During the autumn term, the pre-school closes at 1pm on Mondays and Fridays. The pre-school receives funding to provide early years education for children aged two, three and four years. It also receives the early years pupil premium funding. There are eight staff employed, including an office administrator and lunchtime assistant. The manager holds Qualified Teacher Status and Early Years Professional Status and five staff hold childcare qualifications at level 2 or 3.

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