

St Joseph's Pre-School

St Joseph's Church Hall, Forest Road, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 3QT



Inspection date

7 October 2015

Previous inspection date

3 December 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

- Children play in a warm and welcoming environment. Kind, caring and compassionate staff enable children to settle well, be confident and enjoy pre-school.
- Staff demonstrate a good understanding of how children learn. Planning of activities ensures children access a broad range of experiences that provide effective challenges.
- Staff actively promote inclusion as they acknowledge and value differences, ensuring that their plans take account of children's individual needs. Children's cultures are respected and shared with other children.
- Children show good levels of confidence during play. They show care and consideration to their friends and older children offer their support to younger children if needed.
- Good partnerships with parents and other professionals mean staff know children well. They regularly exchange information in ways that encourage consistency in children's experiences. This means children have their needs met and are motivated to learn.
- The management team and staff members strive to continually improve the pre-school through effective evaluation of what it offers. This benefits the experiences children have in the pre-school and ensures they are well prepared for their move on to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Strategies to encourage parents and carers to be fully involved in their child's learning are not always successful.
- Staff do not always ask children questions that make them think and solve problems for themselves to develop mathematical skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the quality of teaching for problem solving by helping children to think for themselves to develop mathematical skills
- improve opportunities to engage all parents in their children's learning to encourage them to share their achievements at home to help children make even more progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children and the impact these have on children's learning in the playrooms and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including children's records, staff planning, risk assessments, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector had discussions with the chairperson, manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability checks to work with children, and their qualifications.

Inspector

Jan Harvey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff have a good knowledge of their responsibility to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are aware of their responsibility to report any concerns about children's well-being and are confident in their ability to recognise child protection issues. Staff are supported by an effective programme of training. The impact of staff attending a course looking at the learning environment to inspire children's imaginative skills is evident. Staff have created many interesting areas where children can explore and learn. The regular monitoring of teaching through observations, supervisions and appraisals leads to consistency of practice. Staff use effective systems to review the educational programme, which ensure that all children's needs are met. Staff are committed to providing a safe and secure environment.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children mix socially and access a broad range of activities in well-resourced spaces indoors and outdoors. Staff help all children, including those learning English as an additional language, to develop good language skills. For example, they use clear words and short sentences when they talk to children to support their understanding. Children become confident talkers. Staff provide many interesting materials and experiences, for example, older children count, make patterns and use colour names accurately while they creatively mix paints and print with autumn leaves. Younger children enjoy exploring a variety of materials using all their senses. They move objects around in safety, as they please. Staff respond with delight and praise when children show new skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help children build strong bonds with their key person from the start so that children settle very quickly. Staff understand each child's care needs well and ensure these are met consistently. As a result, children feel safe and secure, which supports their emotional well-being. Staff make the most of learning opportunities, such as snack time, to promote children's communication skills and independence. The youngest children are keen to serve themselves, gently assisted by staff. Older children learn to cut their fruit safely and pour their own drinks. Children's behaviour is very good. Staff follow consistent, positive behaviour management strategies and encourage children to manage their own behaviour. Children benefit from visits in the community and rich opportunities to develop their physical skills through outside play, for example, in a woodland area.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning from their starting points. Older children learn to manage their personal needs independently, which helps support their independence and prepares them well for school or the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	107057
Local authority	Bristol City
Inspection number	839463
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	54
Name of provider	St Josephs Pre-School (Bristol) Committee
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2010
Telephone number	0117 9147173

St Joseph's Pre-school registered in 1975. It operates from St Joseph's Catholic Church Hall, in Fishponds, Bristol. Pre-school sessions run during term time only between 9am and 4pm. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The committee employs 13 staff, of whom eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and two staff hold qualifications at level 5. The manager has achieved Early Years Professional Status.

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