

Saltdean Pre-School

St Nicholas Church Hall, Saltdean Vale, Saltdean, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 8HA



Inspection date	13 October 2015
Previous inspection date	11 September 2014

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision			
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- The manager and staff have made good use of the support of the local authority to develop and improve their provision. They have taken effective steps to address previous areas of weakness and make further improvements. For example, they have worked towards a quality assurance award. This has had a positive impact on children's care and learning.
- Staff plan a good balance of activities for children based on their interests and needs. Children choose from a wide range of resources that they can easily select for themselves. They make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff promote children's safety effectively and supervise them well at all times.
- Staff are sensitive to children's individual needs. They work well with other professionals when needed so that children benefit from a consistent approach.
- The manager and the chair of the committee implement robust recruitment procedures. This helps to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children and committee members are suitable for their roles.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make full use of information from assessments, for example, to help them swiftly identify any gaps in groups of children's learning so they make the best possible progress.
- Staff have not fully developed systems for gathering the views of all parents about any areas for improvement, to support their self-evaluation process.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen further the use of assessments of children's learning to develop the monitoring of the overall progress of groups of children
- increase the involvement of parents in identifying areas for improvement, as part of the ongoing evaluation of the pre-school.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children taking part in activities both inside and outside.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager, committee members and staff about their practice and about children's learning and development.
- The inspector sampled paperwork, including staff records, children's files and policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Rebecca Khabbazi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have attended child protection training. They understand how to identify possible signs of abuse or neglect and know what steps to take to protect children. The manager monitors staff performance and children's learning experiences soundly; for example, she observes staff practice and holds regular supervision meetings with them. Overall, the staff constantly reflect on their practice. They show a positive attitude to making improvements to help raise the quality of teaching and children's learning further. Partnerships with parents are mostly effective. Parents speak highly of the provision and value the friendly, caring staff team. They are happy with the care staff provide and feel their children are safe and well cared for.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe individual children's learning and plan for their next steps in learning well. They provide good quality teaching and, in particular, support children's communication and language skills effectively. For instance, they encourage conversations and talk to children as they play, ask questions and give everyone time to answer, such as during circle time. They guide children well and give them time to solve problems by themselves. For example, children had fun working out how to fit the pieces of the train track together to make the shape they wanted. Staff encouraged them to persevere with the task, offering suggestions and praise to motivate them. Children concentrated well and were thrilled with their achievement. Staff encourage children to use their imaginations. For example, children turned giant cardboard boxes into boats and trains. Children develop their literacy skills well, such as learning to recognise their names and listening to stories.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are confident and settled due to the effective key-person system. Staff provide gentle guidance and praise, which helps children behave well. They encourage children to think about how to behave safely, such as not running inside. Children learn independence skills; for example, they pour their drinks at snack time. They develop their large physical skills well, such as using a range of equipment indoors and outside, which promotes their good health. Staff act as good role models, which helps children learn to treat each other with respect. They encourage children to develop their understanding of the wider world, such as learning about other people's backgrounds and experiences.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress overall, based on their starting points. They learn useful skills that help prepare them for the next stage of their learning and for school. Funding is used effectively; for example, staff completed training and computer tablets were purchased to help develop children's communication and language skills further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130769
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	990525
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Saltdean Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 September 2014
Telephone number	07938970623

Saltdean Pre-School registered in 1994. It operates from St Nicholas Church Hall, in Saltdean, East Sussex. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to 12 noon during term time, with a lunch club until 12.55pm every day except Tuesday. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are five staff; of these, four hold qualifications at level 3 and one holds a level 2 qualification.

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