

St Mary's Pre-School

St Mary's Church Hall, Crouchley Lane, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0AS



Inspection date 15 October 2015
Previous inspection date 14 July 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff have not consistently carried out the progress check for children between the ages of two and three years.
- The provider, at times, allows people to carry out duties of a committee member and suitability checks have not been obtained. This demonstrates a lack of understanding of procedures to follow to ensure the safety of children.
- Staff do not collect enough information from parents about what children already know and can do upon entry. This makes it difficult for staff to promptly identify, respond and plan for children's learning right from the start.
- The supervision of staff is not effective enough and does not any address weaknesses in staff practice.

It has the following strengths

- Qualified staff update their skills through regular additional training. The manager evaluates the provision and recognises there are aspects that need improving, and action plans are in place. She plans to use a new tracking system and to monitor staff performance. This supports the manager in her drive to raise the quality and make improvements in the pre-school.
- Effective partnerships are in place with parents. Staff consider parents' views through questionnaires and act on what they say. Parents say that, 'Staff are their extended family' and that, 'Children are at the heart of everything that staff do'.
- The range of resources throughout the nursery is rich and varied. This stimulates children to explore, experiment and be independent in their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
■ ensure the progress check for children between the ages of two and three years is completed consistently, so that children's development is supported and all parents are provided with a summary of their child's progress at this time	01/11/2015
■ ensure the provider obtains suitability checks for all members of the committee.	15/11/2015

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

- gather consistent information from parents about children's learning and development when they first start, and use this to plan precisely for children from the beginning
- use staff supervision more effectively to help staff raise the quality of teaching and improve the learning outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the pre-school and observed experiences for children, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager, the provider and spoke to staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector looked at children's learning journals and assessment documentation.
- The inspector spoke to parents and their views were taken into account.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked the self-evaluation evidence, and how children's, staff and parents' views are gathered.

Inspector

Kellie Lever

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The registered provider does not have a good enough understanding of the procedures to follow to ensure the suitability of all committee members. There are additional people who carry out committee duties and they have not had suitability checks. However, these people do not have direct contact with children. Therefore, there is no significant risk to children. The manager has sufficient knowledge of keeping children safe. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The recruitment procedures are robust and all staff have relevant checks for ongoing suitability, resulting in children being safe in their care. Staff have regular supervisions and are able to discuss their key children's progress. However, this is not fully effective to help staff reflect on the practice observed or to discuss staff's performance.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff understand how children learn through play and plan activities, taking into account children's individual needs and interests. Staff differentiate language well depending on children's age and stage of development. For example, staff introduce new, describing words to younger children, and encourage conversations with older children to extend their understanding and meaning of words. Children develop their confidence and their independence skills well. This prepares them for moving on to school. Information about children's ongoing development is shared regularly with parents and they are supported to extend learning at home. This prepares children well for the next stage of their learning. However, not enough information is gathered from parents about what their child already knows and can do. This prevents staff from planning effectively to support children's learning when they first start. Additionally, some staff do not provide parents with a written summary of progress for children between the ages of two and three years, as is required. This prevents staff from identifying any additional support that children may require.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

The weakness in leadership and management does not promote children's welfare effectively. Parents provide information to staff that helps children settle into pre-school. Staff use this information effectively to follow children's individual care routines. Children play in a safe, secure environment where they develop a close relationship with the staff and are motivated to learn. Staff provide children with consistent guidance about expected behaviour. Children apply their understanding well and learn how to manage their feelings and respect each other. Children's health and physical well-being are supported well. They go for walks and visits in the local community, such as the library and around the local dam. These also develop their knowledge of their local community.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children make sufficient ongoing progress and are meeting the expected level of development that is typical for their age. It is less evident how much progress a child makes from when they first start as little information is gathered to capture accurate starting points. However, children are acquiring skills they need for future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	315245
Local authority	Warrington
Inspection number	871981
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	St Mary's Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	14 July 2010
Telephone number	07947 692 003

St Mary's Pre-School was registered in 1976. It is situated in the Lymm area of Cheshire. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff, of whom six hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and one has Qualified Teacher Status. The setting opens five days a week during school term times. It operates on Monday, and Thursday from 9.15am until 1.15pm, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.15am until 2.45pm and on Friday from 9.15am until 12.45pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

