

# St Thomas's Nursery School



St Thomas's Church Hall Complex, Prince George Avenue, Oakwood, London, N14 4TL

<b>Inspection date</b>	10 November 2015
Previous inspection date	17 October 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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

- The manager is well qualified and uses her knowledge and experience to continually develop the service the nursery provides. She builds effective relationships with staff, parents and other professionals.
- All staff demonstrate a commitment to providing good quality childcare. They make good use of training to develop their skills, which has a positive impact on their teaching and children's learning.
- Teaching is good overall. Staff keep accurate observation and assessment records of children's learning. Gaps in learning are quickly identified and support programmes are promptly put in place. All children are making good progress from their starting points.
- Children are very happy, confident and settled in the nursery. They enjoy warm and respectful relationships with staff and build strong bonds with them.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff help them to understand what is expected of them and how to behave.
- Partnerships with parents are well established and make a strong contribution towards meeting children's needs.

**It is not yet outstanding because:**

- The outdoor environment does not provide children with as many exciting experiences and activities as indoors, to extend and enhance the learning further of those children who enjoy playing outdoors.
- Staff do not consistently ask questions that encourage children to build on and extend their ideas and understanding, and their problem-solving 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 range of play experiences available to enhance the all-round learning and development for those children who enjoy learning outdoors
- strengthen the already good teaching skills further by consistently asking children questions that encourage them to think, solve problems and give them enough time to form their responses.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation including evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery, children's learning records and policies and procedures.

### Inspector

Barbara Firth

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff form a stable and hard-working team. The manager is a very knowledgeable and effective leader. Self-evaluation is accurate and there are well-targeted plans for future development. Safeguarding is effective. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures check staff suitability to work with children. The manager regularly monitors staff's practice and offers ongoing support and training opportunities. For example, management identified how some staff could improve their skills in supporting children with identified needs. The knowledge they gained through this training has had a positive effect on their practice. The manager monitors children's progress effectively and takes action to identify any gaps in children's learning. Staff work closely with external agencies and parents to ensure all children receive good care and support. This helps children make good progress from their individual starting points.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Children enjoy a broad range of interesting and enjoyable activities. Staff are mindful of children's next steps in learning and skilfully weave these into children's play; staff adapt learning opportunities to challenge children. For example, children showed good control as they used scissors to cut a spiral shape to represent a 'Catherine wheel' firework. Children engage with stories and join in with familiar rhymes; this helps extend their early literacy skills. Every opportunity is taken to develop children's understanding and knowledge of numbers. For example, children were able to identify numbers up to six in a game of hop-scotch. Parents receive regular updates about their children's progress and share their children's achievements from home. This helps to promote continuity for children's learning and development.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children benefit from the calm, nurturing environment. The caring team of staff provide support and reassurance, which help children to settle well and be confident to explore the environment. Key staff work closely with parents to enable them to follow children's individual routines. Children develop good relationships and learn about each other's differences. They behave well and learn to share with others during their play. Children are taught to keep themselves safe and learn to identify potential risks. They are encouraged to be independent; for example, they pour their own drinks and help to clear up at the end of the play session. Children are taught about the importance of healthy eating and exercise, and develop a good awareness of healthy lifestyles.

### Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning and development. Staff know the children well and plan activities that provide children with relevant challenge. This supports all children to be well prepared for their move on to school.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	135398
<b>Local authority</b>	Enfield
<b>Inspection number</b>	846437
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	44
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	43
<b>Name of provider</b>	Stella Roberts
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	17 October 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8886 5369

St Thomas's Nursery School is privately run. It registered in 1992 and operates from St Thomas's Church Hall complex, in the London Borough of Enfield. It is open each weekday from 9am to 3pm, during term time only. There are 10 members of staff, all of whom hold early years qualifications. Senior members of staff hold Early Years Professional Status. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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