

St Catherine's Childcare

St Catherine's Primary School, Marlpool Lane, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 5HP



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

13 November 2015

18 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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's future move on to school is very effectively managed. The setting works particularly well with the host school. This ensures children receive continuity in their care and learning which contributes effectively to positive outcomes for children.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Information is shared effectively to support both children's learning and care needs between the setting and home.
- The effective key-person system enables children to develop positive attachments. Staff meet with parents and children before they start at the setting. Children soon settle and are confident.
- The manager has a clear understanding of her responsibilities and is committed to ongoing improvement. Clear action plans are in place to sustain any improvements made.
- Children's communication and language are promoted well because staff use good teaching methods to help them with this aspect of learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not always immediately welcoming to children who wish to join in adult-led activities after these have already started.
- The professional development of staff is not sharply focused on ensuring they benefit from every opportunity to learn about first-rate practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve opportunities for all children wishing to join in an adult-led activity to be fully included and welcomed
- provide more opportunities for staff to learn about first-rate practice, so that the quality of teaching reaches an outstanding level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at children's records, the planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Susan Rogers

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Management and staff place high priority on the safety of the children and most staff have recently attended safeguarding training. Staff are up to date regarding child protection issues and how to keep children safe from harm. Staff are well qualified and their professional development is monitored through management supervision. Staff are encouraged by managers to progress with their professional qualifications. The nursery carries out regular self-evaluation that takes into account the views of staff, parents and children. This inspires ongoing improvements and the regular review of play space and children's activities. Partnerships with parents are well established and they are actively included in their children's learning. Parents speak very highly of staff, who keep them fully informed about their children's progress and how they can support their learning at home. Partnerships with the host school are strong and helps children as they move on to school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff track children's progress and plan activities, so that children make good progress in their development and the gaps in their learning are closing. Staff are skilled at preparing and making the most of story time. They use props and toys, so that children's creativity is inspired. Children are encouraged to discuss their feelings as they think about what happens in the story, for example, when baby owls are waiting for their mummy. Children learn how to problem solve and put together a train track, learning which pieces connect together. Children use mathematical language as they use dough. They cut out shapes, count how many they have and describe what they cut and create. Staff purposefully ask questions that arouse children's curiosity. Children are encouraged to explore their environment and be adventurous as they play outdoors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children learn how to be independent. They gain rapidly in confidence and respect, and care for their play environment. Children serve their own snacks and pour their own drinks. They happily take part in daily routines that promote their sense of responsibility. Children are active and develop their physical skills. Staff make good use of the outdoor area to enhance learning opportunities for children. Children balance on beams, use wheeled toys and use crates to build. They have ready access to materials to make marks and extend their creativity. Children develop an understanding of the importance of good health. Staff initiate discussions about which food is good for their health.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who receive funding for early years education, make good progress in all areas of their learning. Children are enthusiastic learners who are eager to participate in activities. Staff promote children's learning effectively. Children learn important skills in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	205442
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	854389
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	69
Name of provider	Karen Linda Baylie
Date of previous inspection	18 June 2009
Telephone number	01562 753 555

St Catherine's Childcare was registered in September 2000. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold early years qualifications at levels 2 or 3 and one at level 4. The manager has Qualified Teacher Status and Early Years Practitioner status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, term time. Before school and after school sessions are from 7.30am until 9pm and from 3.15pm until 6pm. Nursery sessions are from 9am until 3pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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