St George The Martyr Pre-School



St George's Church Hall, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9EE

Inspection date	27 November 2015
Previous inspection date	17 March 2010

The quality and standards of the	This inspection:	Good	2
early years provision	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and asses	sment	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 successfully make choices and follow their interests, both indoors and outside. Staff plan a wide variety of interesting and challenging activities to motivate children and help them develop the skills they need for future learning.
- Children feel welcomed and loved by caring and experienced staff. These strong relationships provide good support for children's emotional well-being.
- Staff promote children's independence and hygiene skills very well. Children are provided with nutritious snacks and learn about healthy food options.
- Staff have high expectations of children and model appropriate language and behaviour. They effectively use successful behaviour management strategies to reinforce ideas and messages that are important, so children learn to behave responsibly.
- Staff maintain good partnerships with local schools and the other settings that children attend. They help to support continuity and good progress in children's learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The performance management of staff is not yet sharply focused on enhancing teaching skills to even higher levels.
- Staff do not always give all parents very precise information when discussing their children's progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen existing performance management arrangements to ensure that all staff are supported and inspired to raise the quality of teaching to an even higher level
- extend the sharing of information with parents about their children's achievements, progress and development.

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 carried out a joint observation with one of the managers.
- The inspector held discussions with the managers, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of the children's development records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff and committee members, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and from their responses to surveys organised by the pre-school.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The two managers deploy staff effectively so that children are closely supervised and kept safe. Staff are fully aware of how to protect children. They clearly understand what they need to do if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. The committee follow safe recruitment and vetting procedures to check that staff are continually suitable to work with children. The staff team is well qualified and attends regular training. Staff have regular supervision meetings to review the quality of their work and to plan for their professional development. This is beginning to have some impact on improving the quality of teaching and learning. The managers closely monitor the progress of individual children and of groups of children, to ensure that no child gets left behind. They make sure that staff incorporate the targets of specialist agencies when planning activities for disabled children or those with special educational needs. They use additional funding wisely to help all children gain confidence and participate fully in activities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff effectively use the information they gather from parents to plan for children's learning from the start. Children are motivated to explore, investigate and experiment during activities they choose for themselves. Staff play with children and use careful questioning to encourage children to think, speak and develop their skills in all areas. For example, children say numbers in the correct order and begin to use mathematical language as they weigh pasta and rice. Children eagerly look at books for pleasure and to gain information. They also take books home to share with their parents. Staff suitably observe and assess children's achievements. They plan future activities that build on what children know and can do. Overall, staff provide good levels of support for families and communication with parents is generally effective. Staff and parents work together to take a shared approach to developing children's learning, both in the pre-school and at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop secure attachments with their key person and they receive good emotional support. Staff raise children's self-esteem and regularly praise their efforts. Parents make very positive comments about the staff. They appreciate the way they help their children gain confidence when settling in. Staff support children to share toys, play well together and listen when they are given instructions. Children use good manners without being prompted and show respect to their friends and staff. They have plenty of opportunities to explore and discuss the world around them together. Children spend a lot of time outdoors and learn how to take risks safely and develop and extend their physical skills.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are making good progress. This includes disabled children and those with special educational needs, and children who speak English as an additional language. They are effectively developing the skills they need to prepare them for the next stage in their learning, and in readiness for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number 203635
Local authority Essex
Inspection number 865209

Type of provision Sessional provision

Day care type Childcare - Non-Domestic

Registers Early Years Register

Age range of children2 - 4Total number of places26Number of children on roll30

Name of provider

St George the Martyr Pre-school Committee

Date of previous inspection17 March 2010Telephone number07808 638 122

St George The Martyr Pre-School was registered in 1980 and is run by a committee. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, one member of staff holds an early years qualification at level 4, four staff hold a qualification at level 3 and three staff hold a qualification at level 2. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during school term times. Sessions are from 9.30am until 12.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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