

St James Rd Church Pre-School

St James Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD18 0DZ



Inspection date

26 November 2015

Previous inspection date

16 May 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	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

- Teaching is good and staff are attentive to children's needs. They work hard to create a welcoming and stimulating learning environment indoors and outdoors. Children settle quickly and are well motivated. They seek out familiar items and happily explore.
- Staff are very friendly and they warmly welcome children into the pre-school. Children build strong attachments with staff.
- Children's social skills are promoted during the routines of the day, such as snack time. Children have good opportunities to speak in a group and to develop their ongoing learning, in readiness for school.
- Staff have a good partnership with other professionals, such as those who specialise in supporting disabled children and those with special educational needs. This helps them to quickly obtain further guidance and support as necessary.
- The manager is a very good role model. She has an accurate awareness of the strengths and areas for development. The manager has identified training needs to continually enhance the support provided to children who speak English as an additional language.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities are sometimes missed to extend and challenge children's learning even further.
- Information about children's achievements at home is not consistently used in planning to support children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the opportunities for children to develop independence skills and for more-able children to further extend their skills
- strengthen the use of information about children's learning at home so that it is consistently used when planning activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation, the safeguarding policy and children's records. She also looked at evidence of the suitability of committee members, volunteers and staff.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager is committed to continually developing the pre-school and the service that it provides. For example, she completes detailed action plans with the staff. These are regularly used to reflect on their work with children. This helps them to share good practice and to increase their knowledge about supporting children's welfare and learning. Staff attend regular supervision meetings and discuss the progress of their key children. Recruitment procedures are secure. For example, the provider ensures that all committee members and volunteers are suitable to carry out their role. They are also made familiar with the safeguarding policies. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good understanding of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and how to report any concerns they may have.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how young children learn and develop. They complete regular observations and assessments of children's learning and plan activities to support their next steps. Staff provide interesting activities to promote children's learning and development. Children enjoy learning how to mix paints to create a marbling effect for pictures to take home. This helps to build on their confidence. However, at times, adults are too keen to do tasks for more-able children. They do not always give children enough time to practise emerging skills, such as writing and putting on their own shoes. Staff promote children's speaking and listening skills well. For example, children listen for favourite songs and eagerly join in. They have great fun making up additional verses and lots of giggling takes place. Staff know key words used in children's home languages; they use visual aids and signs to help children make connections in their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have the opportunity to learn quietly, relax or actively engage in activities. They enjoy playing outdoors, part of which is covered. Staff ensure that children enjoy fresh air and exercise all year round. Children dig in the sand, have fun climbing on apparatus and confidently use bikes to help their physical skills and coordination. They learn to keep themselves safe. Staff discuss with them how to use play equipment safely. Children learn about healthy living when they plant and grow vegetables. The manager and her staff are very calm. They help children understand the concept of taking turns through interactive games. Children are encouraged to behave well and help to tidy up. Children's achievements are shared with teachers of schools where they will attend. This helps with the continuity of their welfare and learning.

Outcomes for children are good

Children, including disabled children and those who have special educational needs and those who access funding, make good progress from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130642
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1028655
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	St James Road Church Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 May 2013
Telephone number	01923 251825

St James Rd Church Pre-School was registered in 1992 and is committee led. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and the manager holds level 4. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon, and from 12.30pm to 3pm. A lunch club operates from 12 noon to 12.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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