

Sutton St. James Pre-school

Church Lane, Sutton, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0DS



Inspection date

20 January 2016

Previous inspection date

30 April 2015

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

- Staff have successfully addressed weaknesses identified at the last inspection. They have been proactive in seeking ideas from other settings to help improve their own practice. This has led to improvements in the overall quality of the setting.
- Communication between staff and parents is good. Staff involve parents well in their children's learning. Parents report that staff are really approachable and the pre-school is a lovely friendly place.
- Staff use a range of effective measures to teach children about values and expectations regarding good behaviour. This helps children to understand boundaries, feelings and how their behaviour impacts on others.
- Children benefit from regular interaction and encouragement from staff. They enjoy their learning and engage well in the good variety of activities on offer. This helps them to make good progress in their learning and development.
- Links with other settings are strong. Staff receive positive feedback from the headteacher about how confident and independent children are when they start school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always check that the indoor and outdoor spaces provide enough opportunities to fully promote children's physical development.
- Self-evaluation is not strong enough to drive further improvements and help raise quality to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- expand opportunities for children to be energetic and active in a range of ways, both indoors and outside
- strengthen the self-evaluation process to help identify clear targets that continually improve the quality of provision and outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nominated person for the committee and the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jan Linsdell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and committee have a clear understanding of their responsibility to meet the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. The manager works alongside the staff, which helps her to keep a check on the quality of teaching and children's learning. Regular supervision sessions, team meetings and observations of staff practice also contribute to improving teaching. Staff make good use of their qualifications and ongoing training to strengthen their skills and enhance children's learning. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Clear procedures are in place to help staff take appropriate action to keep children safe from harm. Partnerships with parents and other settings are well established, which benefits children's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have significantly improved how they promote and monitor children's next steps in learning. They use various systems to make sure all staff and parents understand how they can help children move forward in their learning. The quality of teaching is strong. Staff accurately assess children's progress and they take children's ideas into account when they meet each week to plan activities. Staff are well deployed to guide and support children at their chosen activity. They remind children to use their ears and eyes to help keep everyone safe. Staff have started to provide more focused support to help individual children with their speech and language skills. Overall, the environment is well resourced and new storage units enable children to make more independent choices in their play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff build friendly and supportive relationships with children. They promote children's emotional well-being and help them to feel secure. One way they do this is by encouraging parents to make a treasure box that contains comforting items from home. This is particularly reassuring for children who speak English as an additional language. Staff implement a child-friendly contract with children, which helps children to understand how to behave. They proudly celebrate children's good deeds with the whole group, which has a positive impact on children's self-esteem and confidence. Children have some opportunities for active play, for instance, when they march up the hill and move around using the ribbons. Staff have changed the snack time routine so that children are more independent at serving themselves healthy snacks. Staff also use this time to set challenges and extend children's learning. For example, they encourage children to count five grapes and compare the size of their breadsticks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children work comfortably within the typical range of development expected for their age. They are keen to learn and they make good progress from their starting points. Children are well supported to develop the necessary skills that help them become ready for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305353
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	1014297
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Sutton St James Pre-School
Date of previous inspection	30 April 2015
Telephone number	01260 252 112

Sutton St. James Pre-school was registered in 1970. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon. 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.

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