

St Matthews Pre-School

Church Hall, Stretton Road, Stretton, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 4NT



Inspection date

27 January 2016

Previous inspection date

6 July 2012

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 are encouraged to be kind to each other and polite. Staff are positive role models and use consistent messages that support children to learn about respecting rules and boundaries.
- There is a stimulating range of resources and activities, indoors and outdoors, that is based on children's interests. Children are motivated, they enjoy taking part in activities and initiate their own play.
- Staff work well with other settings and professionals to ensure that there is a continued flow of information about children's care and learning.
- Strong and trusting partnerships with parents have been developed. There are effective procedures in place to share information and celebrate children's achievements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The monitoring of staff practice does not always support staff as they develop their skills in providing challenge for more able children.
- The information gathered at the start of children's placements is not precise enough to always fully support the assessment of 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:

- extend the monitoring of staff practice so that staff consistently enhance their good teaching skills and provide even more challenge for more able children.
- gather more precise information about what children can do at the start of a placement to sharpen the assessment of children's progress further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, policies, procedures and the pre-school's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to both children and staff, and observed play and learning activities in the main environment and the outdoor environment.
- The inspector held meetings with the business manager and the pre-school managers throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Alison Regan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers of the pre-school have a secure knowledge of the welfare and safeguarding requirements. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There are appropriate systems to check that staff are suitable to work with children. Safeguarding procedures are clear and well known by staff. The managers have reflected on and evaluated the provision and set targets for improvements. For example, new systems have recently been implemented for planning, observation and assessment. The majority of staff are qualified and have received mandatory training, such as first aid and safeguarding. The managers monitor the learning of all children in the pre-school. Any gaps in their learning are identified and met with appropriate interventions.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff seek information from parents when children first start at the pre-school. Parents have regular opportunities to find out about their children's progress through ongoing regular discussions with staff and at parents' evenings. Staff make use of regular observations and assessments of children's achievements to plan relevant learning experiences. Children engage in a variety of activities and are motivated and eager to learn. Staff interact well with children during spontaneous play. They use some effective teaching strategies that effectively support children to build on their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a safe, warm and welcoming environment. Staff are caring and attentive. Children's care and emotional security are given a high priority by staff. A secure key-person system is in place which helps children to settle well. Children clearly show that they feel happy and safe. They confidently approach visitors to find out the purpose of their visit. Staff help children to become independent in managing their own personal needs. Staff give clear messages to children about why it is important to have a healthy diet and good hygiene routines. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and regular active play, which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Staff successfully promote children's understanding of their community and the wider world.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who access funding, such as Early Years Pupil Premium, make steady progress in their learning. Overall, children develop a range of skills to prepare them for their next stage in learning and their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	315246
Local authority	Warrington
Inspection number	847681
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	20
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	St Matthew's Pre-School Group Committee
Date of previous inspection	6 July 2012
Telephone number	01925 730083

St Matthews Pre-School was registered in 1989. It is managed by a committee. It opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to 12 noon, and Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 3pm. The pre-school employs nine members of staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and one member of staff holds a degree in education. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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