

The Vestry Pre-School

St. Marks Church, Abercorn Place, London, NW8 9YD



Inspection date

11 March 2016

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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. Staff provide a welcoming environment for children, with a varied range of stimulating activities, inside and outside. They make accurate observations of children and plan well, which helps children to make good progress in all areas.
- The effective key-person system helps support children to settle quickly when they are new to the setting. Children build close bonds with staff. They explore and play confidently.
- Staff successfully promote the communication and language of all children, including children who are learning to speak English as an additional language. Children gain confidence to talk in a variety of situations.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are strong. Parents are happy with the care provided, and the manager ensures that they are kept well-informed about their children's progress. The manager works well with other professionals to support children with special educational needs.
- The well-qualified manager and staff regularly evaluate their provision. They successfully identify its strengths and any areas for development, and they set clear targets for improvement, to continuously develop their practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, staff expect children to reply to questions too quickly before they have had enough time to think about how to answer.
- Staff occasionally miss opportunities to help reinforce and extend children's skills in recognising written numbers.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's good thinking skills further by making sure they have enough time to think about and answer questions for themselves, before stepping in to help them
- provide even more opportunities for children to learn to recognise written numbers, to strengthen their good early mathematical understanding further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with children, parents and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including staff records and children's development folders.
- The inspector observed as children took part in activities and daily routines in all areas.

Inspector

Lesley Hodges

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure understanding of the setting's safeguarding procedures. They understand how to make a referral to the relevant colleagues and authorities if they have concerns about the welfare of a child. Staff provide a safe environment through effectively identifying and minimising risks to children's safety. The manager regularly identifies areas for staff training and development, to help continually improve the outcomes for children. For example, recent training has provided staff with new ideas for activities to strengthen children's knowledge of letter sounds. The manager and staff regularly review individual children's learning, to help ensure that they are planning well for, and meeting, the needs of every child.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children well. They recognise where children are in their development and plan stimulating activities based on observations of their needs and interests. For example, children become fully engaged as they search for different insects in the garden, happily naming and counting what they find. Staff provide further support for children's learning in a range of ways. For example, they provide models and books for children, to help them make links in their learning. Staff promote children's early language and literacy skills well. They provide many opportunities for children to see words written down, and they provide resources that stimulate children's interest and conversation. For example, older children predict the endings to stories as they take part in well-organised group times, and all children enjoy looking at photograph albums and displays with words and pictures, discussing past events with staff and with friends.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's behaviour is good. Staff offer consistent guidance and support to children of different ages, and they help them learn how to manage their own behaviour. Children tackle small tasks by themselves and are learning how to care for their environment. For example, they enthusiastically take part in routines such as tidy-up time. Staff successfully promote children's awareness of keeping healthy. For example, they provide nutritious snacks and they find good opportunities to lead discussions with children about healthy foods. Children develop their physical skills well as they take part in an enjoyable range of activities, including outside play. For example, they use a slide in the garden and enjoy running around in the fresh air.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points and some children make very good progress. For example, older children sound out letters and write words for their own books, which staff display around the setting. Children learn to be independent. For example, they choose what to play with, and they put their coats and boots on by themselves before outside play. They develop confidence in their own abilities, and this helps to prepare them well for their future learning, including the move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY458051
Local authority	Westminster
Inspection number	929127
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 - 5
Total number of places	14
Number of children on roll	12
Name of provider	The Vestry Pre-School
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0207 624 2705

The Vestry Pre-School re-registered in 2013. The pre-school operates from three areas in the vestry at St. Marks Church in St John's Wood, in the London Borough of Westminster. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to 12 noon during term time only. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs three staff, two of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications, including the manager who holds a qualification at level 5.

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