

St Nicholas Pre School

St. Nicholas C of E Primary School, Kilmersdon Road, RADSTOCK, BA3 3QH



Inspection date	28 April 2016
Previous inspection date	20 November 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- The manager and staff have made significant improvements to the quality of practice. Their self-evaluation is now accurate and shows a good understanding of the setting's strengths and areas for development.
- Staff know the children well. Their nurturing relationship ensures the needs of all the children are met.
- Children's views are taken into account. They take an active part in planning activities as staff record their suggestions on the 'ideas board'.
- Parents value the accessibility of the staff and their knowledge of the children. They particularly enjoy taking home and sharing their children's learning books.
- Behaviour is good. Children listen attentively and participate in conversations such as during registration time.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes children do not get the most out of planned adult-led activities because staff do not encourage them enough to take part.
- On occasion the manager does not check that staff have made identified improvements in their practice swiftly enough.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of planned adult-led activities to encourage all children to participate
- check the progress staff make towards identified improvements in a timely manner.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at suitable times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and its impact on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents including the setting's self-evaluation, children's learning journals, staff supervision records and evidence of staff's suitability.

Inspector

Cathy Neaves

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Since the last inspection all staff have updated and consolidated their safeguarding knowledge, and therefore safeguarding is now effective. Children's absences are monitored so that staff can take action where they have concerns. Staff now fully understand their role in protecting children and how to work with other agencies. A clear robust safeguarding policy underpins the work they do and is available to parents. Supervision meetings are used to monitor staff suitability. The manager observes teaching and supports staff in planning children's next steps. Staff show a strong commitment to continual improvement and have identified training to improve their practice still further. The manager has made effective use of additional funding to help narrow the gaps in children's progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The key person system works well and information from parents is used successfully by staff to assess children's starting points. Children's progress is then monitored effectively as staff frequently and accurately assess how well they are doing. They regularly share this information with parents and other professionals so that any worries can be acted upon. There are good opportunities for children to practise their early writing skills both inside and out. Mathematical development is promoted well throughout the day. Children are regularly encouraged to count and add and more able children are able to accurately add together large numbers such as fourteen and eight. There are good opportunities for children to problem solve, for example by using the large wooden bricks outside to construct buildings.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have secure attachments with staff and this means that they settle quickly into preschool and happily choose where they want to play. Children know how to take turns, for example, when using magnets in the sand. They are learning to be independent and manage their personal needs, when, for instance, they change into their wellingtons for outside play. Children show an interest in the world around them. They spend time by looking at a globe to find different countries and know how to say 'hello' and count in different languages. They learn how to respect differences when, for example, parents are invited in to share their skills and culture.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy their time at pre-school. They particularly like the outside area where they discover, explore and experiment, for example, at the water wall and in the 'fairy garden'. Staff work closely with local schools so that children are well prepared when they start. The children are given opportunities to practise skills in readiness for school such as changing clothes and opening packets in their packed lunch boxes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY417834
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	1040489
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	41
Name of provider	Joanna Gallop
Date of previous inspection	20 November 2015
Telephone number	01761 435067

St Nicholas Pre-School registered in 2010. It operates from a building attached to St Nicholas Primary School in Radstock, Bath and North East Somerset. The pre-school is open each weekday from 8.30am until 3.30pm during term time. The pre-school receives funding for free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs five members of staff. All staff hold childcare qualifications at level 3.

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