

St James' Pre-School (Pettswood)

St James the Great RC Church Hall, Lakeswood Road, Pettswood, BR5 1BJ



Inspection date

4 May 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children thoroughly enjoy their learning; they engage in a very wide range of activities that excite their curiosity. All children make good progress.
- Staff use detailed assessments of children's learning and monitor their next steps in development. Staff plan activities well and adapt them skilfully for children of different ages and abilities, to enable them to learn together.
- Children safely access exceptionally well-resourced play areas that inspire them to play, explore and investigate eagerly. Children have very high levels of confidence, choosing what to play with and moving freely from indoor to outdoor areas.
- Children have extremely warm, close relationships with staff. They thrive in the extensive comfortable environment and very quickly develop excellent self-confidence and independence.
- The passionate and dedicated staff are great role models for children, who swiftly develop exceptional social skills. Children's understanding of each other's feelings is nurtured sensitively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, children do not have enough opportunities to use their early writing skills in their play, to support their literacy development as fully as possible.
- Children are not able to engage freely with simple technology to extend their understanding of the world.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities to promote children's early writing skills
- provide more opportunities for children to use simple technology.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the outside area.
- The inspector held discussions about the activities and children's learning with the pre-school manager and staff.
- The inspector looked at the children's learning records and a range of relevant documentation.
- The inspector reviewed the self-evaluation document, and evidence of the qualifications and suitability of staff to work with children.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of parents' views through written feedback.

Inspector

Judith Harris

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff regularly update their child protection training and confidently monitor children's well-being and safety. They know the steps to take if concerns arise about children's welfare and protection. The manager monitors children's progress and staff practice well. She successfully leads the team in developing new ideas to improve outcomes for children and involves staff and parents in evaluating activities and practice. Staff have very good access to training and professional development. For example, they have been professionally trained to very effectively support children with complex medical needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children eagerly engage in a good balance of planned and free play opportunities. For example, children enjoyed making model cars from recycled resources. They concentrated well as they decided how to fix each part. Staff worked with the children, helping them to use their physical skills to cut with scissors. Children talked about the size and shape of the different materials and counted with confidence. Staff regularly share children's learning records with parents to keep them fully informed of children's progress. Staff use exciting activities to successfully link children's learning at home and at the setting, helping to provide continuity in their ongoing development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's well-being is extremely well promoted. Exceptional arrangements support children's health and physical development to the highest standard. Staff provide all possible support to help children to become confident and independent learners. Staff are excellent role models and promote very high standards of behaviour. Children learn to be polite and respect each other. Children's families are highly valued and children learn about a range of different cultures and traditions. They develop their physical skills extremely well. They have daily opportunities to enjoy the outdoor activities, using large physical play equipment with skill and care. Children learn to manage their own safety. For example, children use scissors with skill, and staff give gentle reminders to ensure they understand safety. Children with different needs and abilities are excellently supported through the staff's close work with parents and other professionals.

Outcomes for children are good

Children have good language skills. They are confident talkers and use language to clearly describe what they do. Children learn the skills they need for the move to school. For example, they negotiate well, confidently and independently using a timer to share and take turns.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY476213
Local authority	Bromley
Inspection number	1027304
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	St James' Preschool (Pettswood) Committee
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07815464837

St James' Pre-School registered in 2014. It is located in Pettswood, Bromley. The pre-school opens five days a week during school terms. Sessions are from 9am until 12.15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from midday until 3pm on Wednesday. The management committee employs nine members of staff. Four members of staff hold early years qualifications at level 3 and three members of staff hold early years qualifications at level 2. The manager has a degree in early years education and holds Early Years Professional Status.

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