

St Agnes Pre-school

St Agnes Church Hall, Darmonds Green, Wirral, Merseyside, CH48 5DU



Inspection date

8 June 2016

Previous inspection date

21 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The exceptional management team effectively drives improvement forward and sets high expectations for the provision. They work extremely well to deliver an outstanding level of practice. Assessment arrangements are precise and all children make rapid progress, including children who arrive at the pre-school working below the typical range of development expected for their age.
- Highly effective partnerships with parents ensure that they are fully included in the pre-school plans, activities and their children's development and learning. Parents take part in additional activities and have opportunities to carry out training to upskill their knowledge about certain subjects, such as safeguarding children.
- Staff are well qualified, highly skilled and have a wealth of experience. They use their excellent knowledge of child development well and utilise the space and resources in a very appealing, imaginative way. This creates a fantastic, unique and stimulating learning environment for children.
- Marvellous systems are in place for monitoring staff practice and professional development. Staff carry out independent research, cascade additional information to the team and hold regular reflective staff meetings. This helps staff to maintain their outstanding practice and adds to their inspirational quality of teaching.
- Staff use exceptional questioning methods to help children to make remarkable progress with their communication and language skills. Children are encouraged to join in conversations, and express their thoughts, ideas and preferences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- carry out plans to support children with their understanding of an even wider range of information and communication technology resources and review the impact this has on their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the pre-school and observed experiences available for the children.
- The inspector held a meeting with the senior supervisor and spoke to staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector looked at children's learning journal records and assessment documentation.
- The inspector spoke to parents and their views were taken into account.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the senior supervisor.
- The inspector checked action plans and discussed how the children's, staff's and parents' views are gathered.

Inspector

Kellie Lever

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The inspirational staff team work collectively and strive for continuous improvement, using highly effective methods of self-evaluation. For example, plans are in place to introduce a wider range of information and communication technology resources to children. Safeguarding is effective. The whole team has an excellent knowledge of the policy and procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child. Excellent systems are in place to ensure suitable and motivated adults are recruited. In-depth inductions are carried out to ensure staff understand the high expectations of their role and responsibilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff plan fabulous activities that build on children's interests and the next steps in their learning. Younger children are fascinated as they use rods to hook items out of water. Staff have a great knowledge of child development. Older children delight in the chance to plant seeds in bottles. Staff are proficient at adapting activities and recognising each child's learning potential. For example, some children engross themselves in understanding the mathematical concepts and language with the different amounts of soil and stones needed. Others are fascinated by the texture of the mixture and watch how water absorbs into the soil. These are some of the rich and exemplary experiences that contribute to children developing rapidly in all areas of their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely happy and settle quickly into the pre-school. They develop positive relationships with their key person and lengthy conversations take place before children join. This enables staff to provide the highest level of care and children's well-being is met exceptionally well. Staff make outstanding use of daily routines to develop children's social skills. Children sit in groups, share experiences and have genuine regard for their friends. They are active and develop their physical skills as they climb and swing from ropes. Furthermore, they move their bodies to music and take part in martial art sessions. Children discuss healthy food and the effects it has on the body. There are superb connections with the community and children have fantastic opportunities to learn about the area in which they live. For example, children's artwork is displayed in the local library. They serve drinks to people in the local park and enjoy educational, fun trips out on the ferry and to the local farm.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are keen, articulate, independent learners. They are highly motivated and develop confidence and tolerance towards others gaining important morals, values and displaying excellent behaviour. Children make consistently high rates of progress given their starting points. They are extremely well prepared for their future learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	306490
Local authority	Wirral
Inspection number	855126
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	28
Number of children on roll	53
Name of registered person	St Agnes Pre-School Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP535241
Date of previous inspection	21 September 2010
Telephone number	07811 835440

St Agnes Pre-school was registered in 1981 and operates from the hall of St Agnes Church in West Kirby, Wirral. The pre-school employs 10 staff. Of these, six staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am until midday and Tuesday to Thursday from 1.15pm to 4.15pm, during school term times. There is also the flexibility for children to stay for the full day, if parents provide a packed lunch. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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