

St Martins Centre Nursery

St Martin's Centre, Roman Avenue, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE6 2RJ



Inspection date	22 September 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

- Attachments are exceptionally strong and promote children's emotional well-being. Children are remarkably well cared for by highly competent key persons. Staff work exceptionally well to encourage all children to feel welcomed and valued.
- The management team and staff are highly motivated and passionate about the service they provide. They are well qualified and regularly attend additional training to further their knowledge and expertise.
- The nursery works highly effectively with other professionals to support children. Children who have special educational needs or disability are supported particularly well by their key person. This helps to meet children's individual needs.
- Partnerships with parents are a particular strength at the setting. Parents receive continuous updates about children's achievements and are given guidance to support their children's learning at home.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff follow children's interests and plan suitably challenging activities. This helps children to progress well in their learning.
- Children's understanding of healthy lifestyles is exceptionally well supported. Children take part in healthy cookery activities and enjoy dance and exercise sessions. Detailed information is shared with parents to help support children's healthy lifestyles.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff in the under three room do not fully take advantage of children's daily routines to promote their independence skills further.
- Although staff collect some initial information from parents, they do not gather information about what their child can already do when they first start at the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of everyday routines that promote children's independence skills further
- use information gathered from parents and identify what children already know and can do when they start at the setting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to a group of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.

Inspector

Julie Campbell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers and staff are committed and enthusiastic. The manager has effective systems in place to support staff performance. For example, supervision meetings, appraisals and attendance at training help the continuation of their professional development. The manager has a clear vision for the setting. Thorough self-evaluation, which includes the views of staff and parents, accurately identifies how the setting can improve even further. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff attend regular training to help update their knowledge of safeguarding. They display a very good understanding of the nursery's policies and how to report any concerns. Effective systems are in place for managing the recruitment and induction of staff and to check their suitability. The manager demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of how to implement and review the procedures in the nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are highly motivated, enthusiastic and well qualified. They use their good understanding of the needs and interests of individual children to provide a wide range of learning opportunities, both inside and outside. Staff motivate and enthuse children effectively and it is clear that children enjoy their learning. Children play creatively with oats as they add water and look at the changes in textures. Older children are engrossed in water play. They are fascinated as they watch water travel through drainpipes. Children's early literacy skills are well supported. Younger children enjoy listening to their favourite stories and songs in the garden. Staff observe and monitor children's development so they can quickly identify any gaps in their learning. Planning and assessments are focused on each child's needs and effectively shared with parents.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff have successfully created a remarkably caring and secure environment. They are extremely kind, caring and attentive. Parents speak very highly of the nursery. They comment that the nursery is, 'Excellent' and that staff are, 'Extremely professional and supportive'. Children's sense of belonging is very well nurtured through a gradual settling-in process. Behaviour is exemplary. Children resolve issues and take turns with little support from staff. Staff give children lots of praise and clear explanations about conduct. There are high expectations of the children and, overall, they are supported very well in all aspects of their development. Children have extremely rich and varied opportunities to develop their physical skills in the exceptionally inviting and stimulating outdoor play area. Staff are excellent role models. They are extremely effective in supporting children's growing understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are progressing well in all areas of learning, including those who speak English as an additional language. Children's communication and early writing skills are well supported. Pre-school children develop their understanding of mathematics and they learn to count and recognise numbers. Children are developing their social skills and confidence. This helps them to be prepared for future learning and starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY481328
Local authority	Newcastle
Inspection number	994039
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	36
Number of children on roll	63
Name of registered person	St. Martin's Centre Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP904114
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0191 276 4002

St Martins Centre Nursery was registered in 2014. The nursery employs 11 members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including two with early years professional status. The nursery opens during term time only. Sessions are from 8.30am until 4.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children who have special educational needs or disability and those who speak English as an additional language.

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