

St Paulinus Pre-school

St Paulinus Church Hall, Manor Road, Crayford, Kent, DA1 4EP



Inspection date

24 November 2016

Previous inspection date

10 September 2013

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

- Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time at the pre-school. For example, when children arrive at the setting they eagerly take staff to the activities they want to do, such as foam play. Staff then support and encourage children's exploration of this, asking them to describe what it smells and feels like.
- Partnership with parents and other providers is good. Staff regularly share information with parents about their children's learning and development. Staff work well with other providers to support consistency and continuity in children's care and learning.
- The effective key-person system supports children's emotional development well. Children form secure attachments with staff and each other.
- The manager and staff accurately assess children's progress. They use this information to help them plan effectively to move each child forward in their learning.
- The manager effectively implements the setting's policies, procedures and risk assessments to support her and the staff to keep children safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, staff do not review the resources they make available to fully encourage children to use them and engage in their own learning.
- Staff do not consistently organise the activities they plan and lead to fully support children to make their own decisions and follow their own ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of resources to encourage children to fully engage in their own learning
- review the organisation of planned activities to fully support children to make their own decisions and follow their own learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a variety of activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation, and held a discussion about this, with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies, children's records and documents relating to the suitability checks of staff.
- The inspector talked to staff and parents to gather their views.

Inspector

Alison Wait

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Management and staff have a good and up-to-date understanding of child protection issues and know the procedure to follow should they have any concerns for a child's welfare. For example, staff regularly attend training, which includes the current legislation on safeguarding, and use this knowledge to help them keep children safe. Staff work together to ensure the premises are safe and secure, and that children cannot leave unsupervised. Management and staff monitor children's progress well. They identify gaps in their learning and promptly target effective support for them. The manager follows an effective recruitment and vetting procedure, which helps to ensure that staff are suitable and qualified to care for children. Newly appointed staff are coached and mentored effectively by the manager. Management and staff evaluate their practice effectively and identify priorities for improvement. For example, staff recognised that several boys were not consistently engaging in early literacy skills and introduced making marks in foam with their fingers and tools, which they enjoyed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager monitors individual and groups of children's progress well. She works with staff to carefully evaluate children's assessment information and they use this to support planning for children's next steps in learning. Staff encourage children's imagination. For example, children recall their favourite cake flavours. They are aware that an oven needs to be hot to bake a cake and decide to put their pretend cake back into the oven to make it bigger. Staff help children to develop an awareness of mathematical ideas; children enjoy weighing, measuring, stirring and mixing rice and pasta.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff help children to be kind to each other and behave well. Children are active, self-confident learners, and have opportunities to pursue their interests indoors and outdoors. Staff are good role models for children, helping them to understand and follow rules and routines, and encouraging them to share and take turns. Children gain an awareness of how to keep themselves safe from harm. For example, they are aware of the need to go in the same direction and stay within the track lines when playing outdoors on the sit and ride toys. Children develop an understanding of diversity, similarities and differences.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning relative to their starting points. They are motivated, keen to learn and settle quickly in their play. Children communicate confidently. They display good levels of involvement in activities they want to do and a positive attitude towards trying new experiences. Children develop the skills they need for their future learning, such as when they move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	115374
Local authority	Bexley
Inspection number	1061243
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	43
Name of registered person	St Paulinus Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP524079
Date of previous inspection	10 September 2013
Telephone number	01322 522628

St Paulinus Pre-school has been established since 1965. It is managed by a committee. It operates from a church hall in Crayford, Kent. The pre-school offers sessions from 9am until midday and from 1pm until 4pm, or children can attend for the whole day. The pre-school operates during term time only. There are nine staff who work with the children. Of these, the manager holds a relevant level 5 qualification, two staff hold relevant qualifications at level 4 and four hold qualifications at level 3. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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