

St John's Pre-School Macclesfield



St John The Evangelist C E Primary School, Ivy Road, Macclesfield, SK11 8QN

Inspection date	3 March 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff do not always ensure that children's attendance times are recorded.
- Staff do not always consider younger children's differing abilities when planning large-group activities.

It has the following strengths

- Managers and staff are well qualified. The manager ensures that staff receive regular ongoing training to support their continuous professional development. This has a positive impact on children's learning outcomes. All children are making good progress from their starting points.
- Regular supervision meetings and appraisals help the manager to monitor and maintain the good quality of teaching within the pre-school.
- Parents are provided with many opportunities to be involved in their children's learning. They speak very highly of the staff and explain how their children have become increasingly confident since starting at the pre-school. They appreciate the tips and ideas they receive to help them to continue their children's learning at home.
- Children enjoy and benefit from regular opportunities to play outdoors, where staff help them to develop their physical skills and to be active.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

Due Date

- keep a daily record of children's hours of attendance. 03/03/2017

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

- review the organisation of whole-group activities so that younger children are more able to participate fully.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager, key persons and safeguarding designated lead. She carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector talked with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector discussed assessment and planning. She viewed documentation, such as accident records.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and discussed the pre-school's self-evaluation information.
- The inspector took account of the views of staff, parents and children spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Karen Laycock

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Management does not do enough to make sure staff keep necessary records correctly and consistently. As a result, not all of the requirements that are in place for children's well-being are always met in full. However, staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They help children to make good progress in their learning and development. The manager compares the progress made by different groups of children to see if more support is needed by any particular group. This helps her to identify and quickly address any gaps that may be emerging in children's learning. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a good knowledge of the potential signs of abuse. They know when and where to refer any child protection concerns. The manager has robust recruitment procedures to help to ensure staff are suitable to work with children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use information obtained from parents to help them to identify the starting points for children's learning. They make regular observations and accurate assessments of children's development during play and routines. The knowledgeable and well-qualified staff motivate children in a stimulating and challenging environment. Children guide much of their learning themselves, choosing the activities they would like to take part in from a wide range of opportunities and resources. Skilled staff task children to make a balloon alien. They promote children's thinking and imaginative skills as they encourage them to create a story. Children work as a team, each providing their own ideas to add to the story. Children use their physical skills, stretching, stooping and jumping as they chase their balloon. Staff are enthusiastic as they join in children's play and encourage stimulating conversations to promote their language skills. Children have access to many books to ensure that they see words in print and to promote their early literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Management does not consistently ensure that children's attendance times are documented. This means that they do not always have a clear record of which children are present and those who have left the premises. Staff help to build children's confidence and promote their independence. For example, children are encouraged to lead their own play and some of the routines. Behaviour is good and disputes are rare. Children are polite to each other, the staff and visitors. Children learn to keep themselves safe. For example, they listen carefully to the staff as they talk about using the sticky-tape dispenser safely. The pre-school provides a good variety of healthy snacks. Children wash their hands at appropriate times. This supports children to make healthy choices and learn about healthy lifestyles. Children have strong bonds with their key persons.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are gaining the essential skills they need in readiness for their future move to school. Their early literacy and communication skills are developing well. They are learning good pencil control and some can write their own name. Children build on their independence skills as they learn to tidy away resources or to change their own clothes. Children are developing a love of books.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY491503
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	1026957
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	24
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	St John's Pre-School Macclesfield
Registered person unique reference number	RP534759
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01625 430 800

St John's Pre-School Macclesfield was registered in 2015. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 3 up to level 6. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.45am until 3.30pm. The pre-school offers funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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