

Littlesaints Preschool

School Road, EXETER, EX2 9AF



Inspection date	20 April 2017
Previous inspection date	27 February 2015

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 display good levels of confidence and self-esteem, and staff are friendly and nurturing. They form positive relationships with children and make them feel safe and secure in their learning environment. Children make good progress.
- Staff have strong links with the adjoining school. Children have good opportunities to be active and benefit from using the school grounds and climbing equipment, helping to support children's understanding of healthy lifestyles.
- The management team monitors children's progress well. It uses its observations and assessments to support children's individual needs, referring them to outside agencies where necessary. For example, this helps staff plan targeted strategies to support children's speech and language development.
- Staff are knowledgeable and use their qualifications and training to help children learn. They successfully plan activities to help keep them motivated and engaged. For example, children enjoy experiences using soil and foam, and grow 'hair' using grass seeds.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff miss opportunities to extend children's understanding of mathematics, such as simple addition and subtraction.
- The manager is still in the process of developing systems to involve all carers in children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide further opportunities to help children extend their mathematical development even more, particularly in early addition and subtraction
- extend further the partnerships with all carers, to help them contribute to children's development at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector sought the views of parents and carers.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during adult-led and child-led activities.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager at appropriate times during the day.
- The inspector observed activities both indoors and outdoors, and held a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, such as the setting's self-evaluation, staff qualifications and children's records.

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The premises are secure and all staff are aware of their child protection role in keeping children safe. The monitoring of staff performance is good and the manager observes staff practice to help raise the quality of teaching. Self-evaluation is ongoing and the manager frequently meets with staff to review the provision. Close links with the local primary school have enabled the manager to build on training experiences to further support children's development. For example, staff now use the same speaking and listening programme as the school to help prepare children for their next stage of learning. Children have good opportunities to learn about other cultures. For example, they celebrate festivals from around the world.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children pretend to be 'greengrocers' in the role-play area. They use storylines in their play, helping to develop their imaginations well. All children enjoy making marks to support their early writing skills. For example, younger children paint with water outside and older children record how many items they have in their shopping basket. Staff make frequent observations and use these effectively to inform planning and children's assessments. They encourage children to be involved in their learning, such as sticking supermarket wrappers on a display to help children recognise familiar words and advertising logos.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills. All children enjoy balancing on the climbing equipment and building towers with soft bricks. Children enjoy visits around the local community, such as going to the library where they use available props to retell stories, supporting their imagination and storytelling. Staff teach children about time and how to take turns, for example, using an egg timer helps children understand when it is their turn on the scooter. Children develop their independence skills well in preparation for school. They learn how to wash their hands and find their own placemats at snack time.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills that prepare them well for their next stage in learning. For example, older children learn to hear and say initial sounds in words and younger children receive support in finding the first letter of their name at snack time. This helps to develop children's early reading and writing skills. All children enjoy story time and talk about key events, such as characters in the story, supporting their communication skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY343699
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1092906
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Jayne Margaret Hooper
Registered person unique reference number	RP513869
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2015
Telephone number	01392 217 880

Littlesaints Preschool registered in 2006. The pre-school operates from its own premises attached to St Thomas Primary School in Exeter. It opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, during term time only. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are two staff, including the manager, who both hold appropriate childcare qualifications to level 3.

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