

The Salvation Army Pre-School



The Salvation Army, 50 Green Street, Gillingham, ME7 1XA

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| Inspection date | 4 July 2017 |
| 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 | | Good | 2 |
| Outcomes for children | | Good | 2 |

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager is very enthusiastic and strives for further improvements. She uses good evaluation processes, gathering the views of parents, children and staff, to help identify areas for improvement.
- Teamwork is very effective. Staff work well together and they know how to make learning enjoyable. They provide a good range of stimulating activities and resources. Children make good progress in their development from their starting points.
- Relationships between staff, children and parents are strong. Children receive good levels of attention and support. Parents are kept informed of their children's progress and in turn share details of their achievements at home.
- Children are happy and settle very well. Their behaviour is very good. They develop positive attitudes in their play and respect each other. Children display good levels of confidence and self-awareness.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently support children to make more choices in their play.
- Some activities do not fully challenge children to the highest levels and help them to further extend their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with more opportunities to manage everyday tasks for themselves to further support their early independence
- make sure adult-led activities consistently challenge all children to help to extend their learning to the highest levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff teaching children during play indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector examined a sample of policies, documents and children's records.
- The inspector discussed the self-evaluation processes and plans for improvement with the manager.

Inspector

Mary Vandeppeer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are confident in their understanding of their role in keeping children safe. They know what to do if they are worried a child may be at risk of harm. This helps to support children's welfare very effectively. Staff complete regular child protection training to help them to stay up to date. The manager is supportive of staff and their professional development. They meet regularly to identify where skills can be extended and outcomes improved for children. For example, the manager attended leadership and management training to help enhance the organisation and planning of the pre-school. Staff work closely with schools and the local authority. They share a wide range of information to help to provide continuity in children's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff ensure that the learning programme generally provides a wide range of activities and experiences, based on their assessments of children's skills, knowledge and interests. The resources and equipment are set out so that children can learn as soon as they arrive. For example, children can act out home scenarios in the role-play area, or use the computer to help to enhance their technology skills. Younger children thoroughly enjoy playing educational games, looking at colours, shapes and number matching. They use the mouse competently to achieve results. Children also learn about nature and how things grow, and why sometimes things do not thrive. Teaching is mostly strong and staff support children to learn about quantity and to recognise letters and the sounds they represent. Staff skilfully interact with children and pose questions to make them think.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide children with good examples about how to behave towards others. Staff praise children regularly to further develop their self-esteem and confidence. Staff work closely with parents to help ensure children's individual needs are met. Children are encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle. They benefit from nutritious snacks and learn the importance of why hands must be washed at certain times. Children's physical development is given good attention. For example, children play outside every day and explore the local community, enjoying local parks and walks. While indoors they learn how to balance, climb steps and jump safely.

Outcomes for children are good

All children thrive in this warm, caring and welcoming environment. All children, including those with additional needs and those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress. Children are active and enthusiastic learners. They are developing the skills they need for their next stage of learning.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY486928 |
| Local authority | Medway Towns |
| Inspection number | 1015866 |
| 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 - 8 |
| Total number of places | 26 |
| Number of children on roll | 42 |
| Name of registered person | Salvation Army Trustee Company (The) |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP903315 |
| Date of previous inspection | Not applicable |
| Telephone number | 07872 403 917 |

The Salvation Army Pre-School registered in 2015. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to midday and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, term time only. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years, and also receives early years pupil premium funding. The pre-school employs seven staff, five of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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