

Our Lady of Lourdes Pre School



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Manchester Drive, LEIGH-ON-SEA, Essex, SS9 3HS

Inspection date	10 October 2017
Previous inspection date	7 November 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children settle exceptionally quickly into the pre-school. Staff visit children at home before they start, and this helps them to develop an attachment to their key person. Staff fully understand the emotional needs of young children and they are kind and reassuring.
- Partnerships with parents, carers and families are exemplary. Staff see parents' roles as pivotal to their children's learning and they heartily encourage them to engage in all aspects of the pre-school.
- Staff set exceedingly clear and consistent boundaries that help children to feel secure and safe. Children behave extremely well in the setting. They learn to listen, wait patiently and follow instructions.
- All children progress extremely well from their starting points. Staff are exceptionally swift to identify gaps in children's learning and to seek appropriate professional support. Staff are particularly skilled at targeting specific areas of children's development and helping to narrow any gaps quickly.
- Staff reflect continually on their practice and the effectiveness of their planning. They are constantly striving to make improvements to the pre-school. Staff frequently implement the suggestions of parents and children when planning for future changes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the highly successful monitoring of staff practice to further expand and develop their excellent skills, expertise and confidence.

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 carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and spoke to staff and children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers by speaking with some of them during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the suitability and qualifications of staff, children's records, policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jennifer Forbes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Managers and staff share a deep passion and drive to achieve outstanding outcomes for children. Managers monitor the progress of groups of children meticulously and precisely. This helps them to understand if any areas of practice needs to be adjusted to help all children reach their full potential. Teaching is of an exceptionally high standard and staff supervision is extremely effective. Managers have an excellent understanding that more focused monitoring will help to expand staff skills to an even greater degree, and boost their confidence further. Managers thoroughly monitor staff training to ensure they are kept up to date with any changes in legislation and procedures. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities to protect children, and know where to find up-to-date information should they need to raise a concern.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an excellent knowledge of how children learn and develop through play. Staff skilfully follow the children's lead as they play and extend their learning, such as adding resources and using careful questioning techniques. They build on children's interests to encourage their thinking and problem-solving skills. For example, children pretend a crate is a pirate ship and staff ask them to think what might make a good mast. Staff provide craft making materials so children can make flags and treasure maps. They supply strategically placed books, compasses and other artefacts to stimulate children's imagination further. Staff hide coins and bangles among natural resources and children gleefully celebrate the treasure they have found. Children's emerging communication and language skills are extended exceptionally well as staff teach them new words, such as telescope and binoculars to link with their theme.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are curious and inquisitive. They love to explore and use their imagination. For example, children find twigs and branches pruned from a tree and make a cosy den and a campfire. Staff closely supervise children and teach them about risks and hazards. Children learn about lifecycles, growing and harvesting. They enjoy examining snails eggs and planting vegetables. Staff teach children about foods that are good for their health and they taste different fruits. They learn how to be independent and do things for themselves. For example, they tidy away their resources and wash sand from the toys. Children test their physical abilities when they tie ropes around tyres and pull them or roll them away. Children learn to take turns and share with their friends. They find out about people and places and learn to respect each other's cultures and traditions.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are confident learners and make exceptional progress in readiness for school. For example, they develop excellent mathematical skills, such as by comparing spots on dice and correctly matching them to numerals. They search through books to find things out and recognise that words have a meaning. They build a construction from blocks and measure it with tapes, reading numbers and comparing sizes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY358418
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	1065017
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	26
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Our Lady of Lourdes Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519117
Date of previous inspection	7 November 2013
Telephone number	01702 715551

Our Lady of Lourdes Pre School registered in 2007 and is managed by a parent committee. There are 11 members of childcare staff, two of whom hold appropriate qualifications at level 6, six at level 3 and two at level 2. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday from 8.45am until 11.45am and 12.15pm until 3.15pm, during school term time. Some children stay to lunch between 11.45am and 12.15pm and there is a breakfast- and after-school club for older children. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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