

St Marks Pre-school

St Marks Church, 165 Belben Court, Rose Lane, Marks Gate, Romford, Essex, RM6 5NR



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

20 October 2017

24 April 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 provider and staff implement effective procedures to promote children's health and safety. Staff enable children to play in a clean environment where they learn the importance of good hygiene and being safe.
- Staff make regular and accurate assessments of children's learning, which enables them to plan suitably challenging activities and purposeful play experiences. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- The provider's consistent support encourages staff professional development. For example, she holds regular team meetings and offers supervisory sessions and training opportunities, which help to raise the standard of care and learning experiences for children.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff use effective strategies to help children understand the boundaries and important social skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times during activities, staff miss opportunities to support children's understanding of simple measurements, mathematical words and their recognition of numbers in the environment.
- Children are not consistently encouraged to develop their awareness of similarities and differences between themselves and others.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the best of all opportunities to help children strengthen their mathematical skills
- increase opportunities to help children gain a deeper understanding of the wider community.

Inspection activities

- The inspector interviewed the provider about the management of the provision.
- The inspector observed the quality of interactions between the staff and children, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held discussions with staff and spoke to children at appropriate times.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, which included assessment records, staff records, public liability insurance and the record of attendance.

Inspector

Jennifer Liverpool

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff demonstrate a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection matters and how to identify and report concerns regarding children's welfare to the relevant authorities. The provider's recruitment and vetting procedures are efficient, which helps to ensure that only staff who are suitable to work with children are employed. The provider and staff regularly analyse children's assessments to close any identified gaps in children's learning and help them make good progress. Staff also attend weekly meetings with the provider to plan activities for the children and share teaching practices to help improve the outcomes for children's learning. The provider works together with staff to evaluate their practice and encourages parents to help them make decisions about how to improve the quality of care and learning for the children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff interact well with children, which encourages their growing communication and language skills. For example, staff use simple, repetitive language to meet the communication abilities of children who are less confident or who are learning to speak English. Staff also create opportunities for children to learn to talk in groups, and they ask skilful questions to support children in expressing their thoughts and ideas. Staff use storybooks well to develop children's literacy skills. For example, they help children to create a wall display made out of materials and paintings to illustrate the story. This encourages children to retell and talk about the story together. Staff engage parents well in their children's learning and offer support to develop children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff establish warm and caring relationships with children from when they start. Children settle well and are effectively supported to make smooth transitions between home and the pre-school. Staff work closely with parents to help ensure children's needs are well met. For example, they share ideas with parents about healthy foods, to help children develop good eating habits in the pre-school and at home. In addition, staff know to share concerns with parents at the earliest opportunity to identify professional support for children showing signs of delay in their development. Children take part in daily exercise, which contributes to keeping them healthy.

Outcomes for children are good

Children arrive happily and are keen to become involved in activities. They make good progress in their learning. They learn that they can share books with others and they learn to join in with some favourite stories. Children show interest in making marks and some older children are learning to write the first letter in their name. Younger children enjoy exploring a wide range of materials. They use their developing senses to discover and experiment with contrasting textures, such as coloured rice, sand and water. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and development, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496857
Local authority	Barking & Dagenham
Inspection number	1097938
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 - 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	St Marks Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP901357
Date of previous inspection	24 April 2017
Telephone number	07815530613

St Marks Pre-school registered in 2016. It is situated in Marks Gate in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 2.45pm, term time only. It offers sessional care from 8.45am until 11.45am and 12.15pm to 2.45pm, although some children attend all day. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. There are seven members of staff working with the children, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications.

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