

St Thomas' Pre-School

Marriott Hall, Church Road, Noak Hill, Romford, Essex, RM4 1LD



Inspection date

1 December 2017

Previous inspection date

7 January 2015

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

- The manager and staff are motivated and passionate. They have made many improvements since the last inspection and continue to build on the excellent standard of care and learning at the pre-school.
- Children are provided with an exciting and innovative range of experiences that stimulates their interests and motivates them to learn. The environment is extremely engaging. Children are highly engrossed in their play.
- The manager and staff know the children very well and have an exceptional understanding of how they learn. Children are confident learners who have fun and enjoy their time at pre-school.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents are proactive in sharing information about their child's achievements at home, which significantly contributes to consistency in children's learning. Parents hold the nursery in high regard.
- Staff use highly comprehensive ways to track children's progress. They address any gaps in learning swiftly to ensure that all children make rapid progress.
- The nursery is clean and well organised. Children become highly independent in managing their personal needs and they follow exceptional hygiene routines consistently. Staff undertake rigorous checks to ensure that the premises are safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already excellent range of experiences planned for children to help them to take even more managed risks in their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children as they played and took part in daily routines.
- The inspector spoke with children, staff and the manager at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's progress records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff and a wide range of other documents, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Claire Nunn

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager is enthusiastic and committed to the continuous improvement of the pre-school. Children flourish in the care of a very knowledgeable and skilled staff team. Safeguarding is effective. Staff complete relevant training and fully understand their role in protecting children. They know what to do if they have any child protection concerns. Staff implement an excellent system of high-quality, precise observation and assessment to identify where children are in their learning. The manager has a proactive attitude to continued professional development for herself and her staff. This helps to improve the quality of the pre-school even further. For example, following training, the staff team has enhanced the environment for the younger children who attend.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff take every opportunity to extend children's learning and challenge them during their play. They model new ideas and language to help children think and talk through problem solving. For example, they help children to think of ways they can make the cold water warmer. Children delight in the opportunities they have to play outdoors. They competently use their physical skills as they collect leaves with small shovels and then transport them in wheelbarrows. Staff actively support children who speak more than one language, for example, through the use of key words and written text. Staff have established exemplary partnerships with other professionals. These help to provide continuity and are highly effective in supporting children and their families.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide activities that are challenging but achievable, which enables children to remain confident and extremely motivated to learn. To support children at an even higher level, staff have identified ways to encourage them to take risks during their play experiences, such as when taking part in a woodwork project. Staff are highly effective in making children and their families feel very welcome. This includes children who have various special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities. Staff are excellent role models. Their friendly and caring approach helps children to feel safe and secure. Children are valued as unique individuals and staff demonstrate that they know their key children extremely well. Excellent methods are used to teach children to behave and be kind to others. Settling-in sessions are flexible and are used effectively to establish the children's likes, dislikes and routines. Parents speak very highly of the care their children receive.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make remarkable progress from their starting points and any gaps in learning are narrowing rapidly. Children develop excellent literacy skills from an early age. They thoroughly enjoy stories, rhymes and prompts, which are used effectively to capture and engage their interests. Children are extremely well prepared for their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY331699
Local authority	Havering
Inspection number	1085847
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	Mrs Linda Hayter and Mrs Jacqueline West Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP521603
Date of previous inspection	7 January 2015
Telephone number	01708371793

St Thomas' Pre-School registered in 2006. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday during school term times. Session times are from 9.15am until 2.30pm on Monday to Thursday and from 9.15am until 12.45pm on Friday. Children aged two, three and four years receive funding for free early education. The pre-school employs seven members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or level 4.

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