

St. Luke's Preschool

St Lukes Vicarage, Queens Park Terrace, Brighton, BN2 9YA



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

5 January 2018

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 managers are highly qualified and ambitious. They work together closely and lead the enthusiastic staff team by positive example. Together, they self-evaluate the pre-school effectively and make continued improvements to meet the needs of all children.
- Staff are very positive role models. They are supportive and create an enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere for children. Their nurturing approach helps children to form strong bonds with them and each other. All children are happy, secure and ready to learn.
- The managers and staff regularly meet to discuss children's emerging interests and next steps in learning. They work together to plan children's activities and successfully provide a stimulating and challenging environment, overall.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. They are kept fully up to date with their children's development, next steps and achievements. Parents are very appreciative of the individual support they receive.
- The managers reflect closely on the progress children make. They monitor the development of specific groups, such as boys and girls, and effectively close any potential gaps. All children make good progress from their starting points in learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The managers have not focused precisely on how to support staff to raise the quality of their practice to the very highest level.
- At times, staff miss opportunities to encourage children to think creatively and develop their ideas fully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give staff more-structured support to help them develop their practice to an outstanding level
- consistently encourage children to think creatively and develop their own ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the pre-school's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions in relation to children's learning and progress.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Overall, the managers successfully support the professional development of their well-qualified staff team. They spend time modelling best practice and give staff good guidance to help develop their skills. Staff have recently improved their understanding of children's individual learning styles and how to support them. They now assess children's development more precisely and offer more tailored learning experiences. The managers have also improved the children's access to outdoor play and children now move freely between the indoor and outdoor environments. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have up-to-date knowledge of how to deal with any child protection concerns and follow thorough procedures. They maintain a safe and secure environment for children at all times.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children very well and join in with their play skilfully, offering further challenge. For example, as children happily explore magnets, staff talk to them about which objects are 'magnetic' and encourage further exploration. Staff use traditional stories successfully to help ignite children's interest in literacy and develop their communication skills. Children enthusiastically listen to familiar tales and work together to recall the events of the stories. Staff extend children's mathematical skills particularly well. For example, as children explore a sand tray, they encourage them to count, compare sizes, identify shapes and recognise written numbers as they play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave very well and listen closely to staff, fully understanding their high expectations. They are kind and considerate of others and make strong friendships. Older children helpfully open the door for younger children as they go outside and respect their different needs. Staff support children's healthy lifestyles successfully. They encourage plenty of exercise, such as through 'yoga' sessions and outdoor play in the well-resourced garden. Staff provide parents with plenty of support and guidance to help them provide healthy packed lunches for children. They also talk to children about the importance of good dental hygiene and children enjoy cleaning a set of giant teeth.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are eager and motivated learners who quickly gain the skills they need for future learning and school. They concentrate well and pay good attention to detail, such as when creating gingerbread man collages and play dough creations. Children communicate well and confidently express themselves and their views during group activities. They develop strong early writing skills and begin to form the letters of their name. Children are very sociable and enjoy imaginary play. They act out real-life experiences, such as preparing meals, and take turns ordering food in the role-play café.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY493902
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	1034086
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	St Luke's Pre-School Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP911242
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01273 270223

St Luke's Preschool registered in 2015. It is open from 9am to 3.30pm each weekday, during term time only. The pre-school employs five staff, all of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications between level 3 and early years professional status. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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