

Riverside Pre-School St Denys

St. Denys Church Centre, Dundee Road, Southampton, SO17 2ND



Inspection date

27 March 2018

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 highly competent management team ensures that it meticulously plans the play programme. It gives exemplary attention to setting up rich and vibrant play spaces each morning to ensure that it covers all seven areas of learning highly successfully.
- Across the team, expert and skilled teaching takes place with every effort made to extend learning opportunities for all children. High attention is given to children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities to close any gaps in their learning. All staff consistently and skilfully use tailored strategies, such as sign language.
- The behaviour of the children is exemplary. Staff build highly nurturing relationships with all children and meet their individual needs completely.
- The whole team demonstrates an excellent awareness of safeguarding and is highly trained in child protection. Procedures are followed rigorously to ensure the ethos of the pre-school and high standards of care remain in place every day.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are first class. Highly successful strategies are in place to engage all families in helping each child reach their full potential. For example, home visits with health visitors help to build very strong relationships and communication from the very beginning.
- The management team's uncompromising drive for excellence, rigorous review of practice and targeted training result in a highly effective pre-school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance children's excellent outdoor learning experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to children, observed the children's play activities indoors and outdoors, looked at the available resources and read relevant documentation.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager, deputy manager and the consultant teacher to discuss their leadership and management, including self-evaluation methods.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the consultant teacher.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The highly dedicated management team methodically monitors every aspect of the pre-school to ensure its ethos 'simply the best' shines through. Managers are highly successful in motivating and guiding the well-established staff team. Staff are offered bespoke observational coaching, support and excellent training. For example, 'sunshine circles', a play therapy has recently been introduced which focuses on raising levels of children's personal, social and emotional development. Safeguarding is effective. Senior leaders are extremely proactive in managing safeguarding issues and effectively train staff to ensure they have an up-to-date knowledge. Twice daily staff briefings ensure staff are fully informed of safeguarding issues and children's changing needs. Parental views are highly acknowledged by staff and are extremely glowing. For example, a parent visitor spontaneously says how very impressed they are with the pre-school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The exceptional play opportunities, coupled with highly skilled staff, completely engage children in deep levels of learning. Staff show an exceptional knowledge of child development and demonstrate expertise in their teaching. They effectively tune into each child and offer high-quality, tailored interaction enabling children to flourish. Consistent strategies across the setting help children to acquire the skills they need to communicate. For example, they use picture schedules to help children who are less able to communicate to fully understand the routine. All children are fully absorbed in exceedingly well-planned, focused activities that enrich their experiences. For example, children delight in making Easter biscuits and shapes in a sensory 'snowstorm play'. An enthusiastic song time and skilful use of props succeed in encouraging all children to sing, join in with the actions and take part in solving simple number problems.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thrive in a meticulous play environment that provides them with a safe place to learn and take managed risks. Their emotional well-being is highly supported. An excellent key-person system ensures that trusting relationships are made with children and their parents or carers. The staff have a comprehensive knowledge of each child and their family. Children show high levels of kindness, self-control and confidence in social situations. For example, they go around the room wearing the pictorial snack tabard and ask friends if they would like snack. An exceptionally well-planned outdoor area stimulates lengthy collaborative play. It inspires children's imagination and children show great delight in using the mud kitchen or tubes and small toys. Staff have plans to develop the outdoor play area further. Children's safety is central to everything staff do.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children show high levels of confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning. The progress children are making is consistently high given their starting points and they are extremely well prepared for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY495418
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	1033359
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	50
Number of children on roll	75
Name of registered person	Riverside Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP909359
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	02380344377

Riverside Pre-School St Denys registered in 2015. Children attend Monday to Friday from 8am until 3.30pm, during term time only. There are 15 staff, including the manager who holds qualified teacher status. All staff except one hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 2, 3, 5 and 6. The pre-school receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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