

Simon De Senlis Pre-School



Simon de Senlis Primary School, Hilldrop Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN4 0PH

Inspection date 11 July 2018
Previous inspection date 7 May 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 has exceptional leadership skills. She is dedicated and motivates her team of staff to deliver a consistently high early years provision that contributes towards the outstanding progress that children make.
- The manager places a high emphasis on reviewing the practice of the setting. She is constantly considering innovative ways to ensure that views of children, parents and staff are carefully considered when setting new developmental targets.
- Partnerships with parents are exemplary. Staff go out of their way to ensure that parents are involved and informed about every aspect of their children's care and learning.
- Staff make comprehensive observations of children as they play. This helps them to accurately assess children's levels of development. They work very closely as a team to plan innovative next steps that engage children and promotes every aspect of learning.
- Children settle very quickly at the pre-school. Staff form exceptionally strong bonds with the children. They visit children in their own homes prior to them first attending and show them photographs of different areas of the pre-school.
- Children demonstrate excellent manners and behaviour. They listen carefully to instructions and understand the importance of following rules. Children respond very well to the daily routine of the 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 even further the already excellent arrangements for small-group activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ann Lee

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The pre-school is very well organised. The manager and her staff are conscientious and hard working. They have developed the practice of the pre-school significantly since the last inspection. Safeguarding is effective. Staff attend regular training to ensure that they are fully up to date with current legislation regarding child protection procedures. They have an excellent knowledge of possible signs that may indicate children are at risk from harm. The manager has instigated meticulous arrangements for recruiting and retaining members of staff. Sharply focused professional development arrangements ensure that staff continue to advance their skills and knowledge. The manager diligently analyses the achievements of groups of children to ensure consistently high standards are reached. Parents praise the exceptional care provided and the progress that their children make.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Teaching is inspirational. Staff use their deep knowledge and understanding of early years to plan innovative and interesting activities that engage and motivate children. For example, staff identified children's love and pleasure of cooking activities. They carefully reviewed the way it was presented to children to ensure that it offered valuable learning opportunities. As a result, children use individual pictorial recipe cards to help them to independently select their own equipment and ingredients. Staff skilfully model language as children competently crack eggs and mix flour. Children's thinking is encouraged as staff ask thought-provoking questions. For example, children consider how the heat in the oven helps to make the mixture rise. Staff value and respect the views and wishes of children. They have created a 'think tank' where children are encouraged to put forward their own ideas. The sweet shop in the role-play area is one such idea. Staff capitalise on this interest to support children's early mathematical skills. Children estimate how many sweets will fit in a bag and calculate how much they will cost.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff have created a highly inspiring learning environment for children inside and outdoors. Children show very high levels of confidence, motivation and independence. Staff place very high values on supporting children to understand how to keep themselves safe. For instance, children in the woodworking area explain to visitors how to use hammers safely. Children have weekly opportunities to explore the local woods where they enjoy making dens and learning about the natural world. Staff work tirelessly with local schools to ensure that the transfer is smooth and seamless for children.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children flourish and enjoy their time at the pre-school. They are enquiring and curious learners who demonstrate pleasure in furthering their knowledge. All children are making excellent progress from their initial starting points. Any gaps in children's learning are swiftly identified and closed. Children are developing skills that will assist them as they move to the next stage of their development or move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	219888
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1090046
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	26
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Milton Malsor Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521982
Date of previous inspection	7 May 2015
Telephone number	01604 661718

Simon De Senlis Pre-School registered in 1997. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate qualification at level 5 and five at level 3. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.45am until 3.15pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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