

St Mary's Playgroup

C/O St Mary's Primary School, Orchard Place, FAVERSHAM, Kent ME13 8AP



Inspection date	17 October 2018
Previous inspection date	30 April 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- The new manager has taken appropriate steps to address the actions and recommendations given at the previous inspection. For example, staff support children well to develop an awareness of rules and expectations in the setting.
- Staff are caring and form positive relationships with children. They get to know the children well and attend to their needs promptly, which helps them to feel settled and to raise their self-esteem.
- Staff effectively support children's communication and language development. They talk to children as they play, role model new words and encourage children to engage in conversation at mealtimes.
- Partnerships with parents are effective. Staff keep parents fully informed about their children's learning, which helps to promote continuity in children's development.
- The manager tracks children's progress well. She effectively monitors individual children's progress and groups of children, to help identify and quickly address any gaps in their development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss some opportunities to challenge older children to develop their thinking skills further.
- Staff do not consistently help children to learn and understand about people and communities beyond their own experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities to challenge children's thinking skills consistently
- increase opportunities for children to learn about people and communities beyond their own experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at convenient times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a selection of documentation, including children's learning records, attendance registers and evidence of staff suitability.

Inspector

Nicky Chambers

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm, including from extreme views or behaviour. They know how to identify and report any concerns they have about children's welfare. The new manager has made significant improvements since the previous inspection. She works closely with the local authority early years adviser to review the setting's processes and implement effective improvement plans to develop the outcomes for children. The manager provides ongoing support for staff to help develop their knowledge and teaching skills. For example, she carries out one-to-one supervisions and regular team meetings. This helps her to identify areas for further development to ensure that outcomes for all children are good. Recruitment and vetting procedures are effective and the manager supports staff well to develop their professional knowledge. Recent training has strengthened staff interactions with children to help extend their learning further. The manager understands the need to notify Ofsted of changes in the setting.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are confident and motivated to explore in a welcoming and stimulating environment. Staff plan a range of activities based on children's interests and to help support the next steps in their development. Children are curious about the world around them and are eager to find out about natural objects and local amenities during a walk within the local community. Staff encourage children to listen carefully and share their discoveries. For example, children use descriptive language as they talk confidently about the patterns on a church window. Children are creative and thoroughly enjoy experimenting with different materials. They enjoy exploring in the digging area, painting and creating their own models. In doing so, children develop good dexterity and hand-to-eye coordination.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff promote children's personal, social and emotional development effectively. They create a welcoming environment where children settle in well. Children's behaviour is good and they learn to be kind, caring and use good manners. Staff support children's independence well, for instance, as they learn to set the table for their snack, wash their hands and pour drinks. Children have good opportunities to challenge their physical abilities. For example, they learn to climb, balance, walk up and down steps safely, and take part in walks in the local community. Furthermore, children have plenty of opportunity to play outdoors and learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, they engage in purposeful discussions about healthy food and the effects on their bodies.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are extremely happy, confident and eager to explore and investigate. All children make good progress from their starting points. They are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. For example, young children have good listening skills and follow instructions, and older children 'have a go' at writing and begin to recognise letters and familiar words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127606
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10077369
Type of provision	Sessional day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	31
Name of registered person	St Marys Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904555
Date of previous inspection	30 April 2018
Telephone number	01795 536803

St Mary's Playgroup registered in 1985 and is run by a committee. It is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 3.30pm, during term time only. There are six staff members, four of whom hold a relevant early years qualification at level 3. The manager holds an early years qualification at level 6. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

