

St. Margaret's Pre School



St. Margaret's Catholic Church Hall, Doddinghurst Road, Doddinghurst, BRENTWOOD, Essex CM15 0QH

Inspection date	19 October 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Children show high levels of confidence as they have fun and work together during activities. Children learn how to cooperate well with their peers during games. Older children show great kindness and interest in the younger children. Photographs of the children displayed at low level help them to develop a strong sense of belonging.
- Children enjoy a good range of physical play opportunities. Indoors, they have fun climbing ladders and using a slide. Outside, staff support older children well to develop their coordination during games. They learn how to aim and then throw a basketball into a net. Younger children show perseverance as they work out how to hit a small ball with a racket.
- Parents describe staff as very friendly and caring. They talk about how well staff support their children to settle into the pre-school. Parents report that staff provide them with daily information about how their children have spent their time.
- Staff report that they feel listened to by the provider and manager. Their ideas are valued and used to help inform future improvements. For example, staff have increased opportunities for children to learn about similarities and difference.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Professional development plans are not precisely targeted on raising the quality of staff's teaching to an even higher level.
- Staff do not always make the most effective use of assessments to ensure that children are provided with challenge that helps them to make better than good progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance professional development opportunities for staff
- make more effective use of assessments for children's next steps in learning.

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 provider.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the provider, manager, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector discussed with the provider, manager and staff how they reflect on their practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussion during the inspection.

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager has completed training that helps her to advise staff about the issues surrounding child abuse. Staff are aware of the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child's well-being. They carry out regular risk assessments and take effective action to minimise hazards. This helps to protect the safety of children. Staff deploy themselves well throughout the pre-school and ensure that they support children effectively. Staff hold informal discussions with parents at collection and drop off times. This gives them the opportunity to feedback their views and opinions about the service provided.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children participate in role play using their past experiences and imagination to create storylines. They go on pretend holidays and become a truck driver collecting refuse. Children like to talk about those people who are important to them, such as family members. They enthusiastically recall past events when they have spent time with their grandparents. Staff provide children with a good range of interesting activities. They encourage young children to develop their control of paintbrushes. Older children are excited to discover what happens when they mix different colours together. Staff engage children of all ages in conversations that help to support their communication and language skills. Younger children hear new words used in context and older children learn about waiting for others to speak before taking their turn.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and secure. They make special friendships with their peers and build close bonds with staff. Children are confident to ask for help when needed and behave well. Staff encourage children to take measured risks that help them learn about how to keep safe. Children are eager to eat the balanced range of foods provided at snack time. Independence is encouraged as staff ask them to tidy away their plate and cup when they have finished. Children learn about the benefits of good hygiene. They explain that if they do not wash their hands when they are dirty, they may, 'Get a tummy ache'.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are enthusiastic learners who are keen to join in. They develop an understanding of simple mathematics during activities. Children use their fingers to work out and represent how many children have not had snack. Older children can correctly identify initial sounds, such as the first letter of their name. Children are making good progress as they learn the important skills needed for their next stage in development and in preparation for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY538711
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10079366
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 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	Tender Tots Childcare
Registered person unique reference number	RP538710
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07846729601

St Margaret's Pre-School registered in 2016. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The lunch club runs until 1.30pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The setting is open 9.15am to 3.15pm on a Monday and Wednesday. The pre-school is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for children aged two-, three- and four-years-old.

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