

Holy Cross Pre-School

Tracyes Road, Harlow CM18 6JJ



Inspection date	30 October 2018
Previous inspection date	6 February 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
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 provider and staff have succeeded in improving the provision since the last inspection. Effective systems for monitoring and supervising staff to support them in their roles are in place.
- Staff have developed strong and trusting relationships with parents. Daily conversations between staff and parents help to provide a consistent approach in supporting children's care and learning.
- Staff are caring and kind, and form good relationships with children. Consequently, children are happy and settled, and are confident to explore the activities and environment. Older children especially demonstrate a real sense of belonging.
- Staff know the children well and demonstrate a good knowledge of their individual personalities. They plan a range of interesting activities that motivates and engages children, and promotes all aspects of learning.
- Staff work effectively as a team, indoors and outside, ensuring children's safety and supporting them in their play and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of opportunities to extend and build on older and most-able children's learning.
- Systems for analysing the progress made by different groups of children have not been fully implemented.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase staff's understanding of how to extend and provide more challenge for older and most-able children to ensure consistently high-quality learning experiences
- build further on arrangements for comparing the progress made by different groups of children and checking that all groups receive the support they need, to increase the potential for them to achieve at the highest possible levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager and staff. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of adults in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector
Clair Stockings

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of how to keep children safe and the process to follow should they need to report any child protection concerns. Since the last inspection, the manager has introduced regular supervision meetings with staff and all staff attend regular team meetings. This helps to ensure that staff continue to understand their roles and responsibilities. The manager and her committed staff team demonstrate an ability to reflect on the pre-school and identify areas for improvement. Parents express a high regard for the help and support they receive from all staff. They comment on how much their children have developed in confidence since starting at the pre-school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations and assessments of children's development to plan interesting activities to help children achieve their next steps in learning. Staff respond well to children's choice of activities, moving around to deploy themselves effectively to support children well. They get down to the children's level and sensitively participate in children's play. Staff provide many opportunities to extend children's communication skills. They engage in meaningful conversations with children and encourage them to share their home experiences. Staff introduce new vocabulary in context as they share favourite books together. Older children speak confidently in large group situations. Children are motivated, eager to learn and fully engaged, demonstrating high levels of perseverance and concentration. For example, children show control and good coordination as they spread glue across paper and stick a range of pre-cut shapes to create their own individual Halloween design.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children and their families receive a warm welcome when they arrive at the pre-school. Children of all ages demonstrate a secure sense of belonging and settle quickly into the routines of the day. Staff build secure and positive relationships with children and take time to get to know them. Children's behaviour is good. Staff are positive role models as they have consistent expectations, and promote respect and tolerance well. Staff organise the space well so that children make independent choices about where they play and explore. Children develop a growing awareness about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. They help themselves to fresh fruit, pour their own drinks and clear away their things when they have finished their snacks. They have regular opportunities to be physically active outdoors.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. Children of all ages are enthusiastic and motivated learners, and spend sustained periods engaged in their play. They readily select from the activities provided for them and lead their own play. Children develop good listening, speaking and social skills, and communicate well with each other, staff and visitors. Staff support children to count and talk about shapes as they play, which helps them to develop good mathematical skills. They actively gain key skills that prepare them well for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY468257
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10080390
Type of provision	Sessional day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	62
Name of registered person	Nats Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP910937
Date of previous inspection	6 February 2018
Telephone number	01279306327

Holy Cross Pre-School registered in 2013 and operates in Harlow. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8.50am until 11.50am and from 12.10pm until 3.10pm.

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