

St Matthias Pre-School & Childcare Centre

Babbacombe Road, Torquay, Devon TQ1 1HW



Inspection date	1 February 2019
Previous inspection date	6 March 2015

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

This provision is good

- The manager and staff have formed excellent links with the local community. For example, children visit the nearby residential home where planned activities purposefully bring together different generations to share positive experiences.
- Staff provide children with strong opportunities to develop their learning outdoors. Children benefit from 'forest school' activities. For instance, staff teach them how to use real tools and actively encourage children to investigate their environment independently.
- Children enjoy a variety of creative activities. Staff teach children how to use a selection of tools, such as sponges, combs and brushes to make large-scale paintings, helping to support their early writing skills effectively.
- The manager monitors children's progress well, identifying any gaps in different groups of children, for example between boys and girls. She uses this information effectively to support children's development to help improve their outcomes.
- Children learn effectively about healthy lifestyles. Staff talk to children about wholesome foods and visiting the dentist, to help them understand how good food and personal hygiene benefit the body.
- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to help children learn about different cultures and languages, to further support their understanding of the wider world.
- Staff are not always using effective strategies with parents to fully support children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities to increase children's understanding of the wider world
- extend partnerships with parents even further, to help support children's learning and development at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and children to gain their views of the provision.
- The inspector held a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, such as children's assessment records, staff suitability and recruitment procedures, and paediatric first aid certificates.
- The inspector held an interview with the manager to discuss matters relating to leadership and management.

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff have a clear understanding of child protection procedures to help identify when a child may be at risk. They follow robust recruitment measures, such as when employing new members of staff to ensure they are suitable to work with children. The manager has a good understanding of legal requirements and uses her self-evaluation well. She has a detailed action plan of areas she wishes to improve. For example, plans to develop the outdoor environment further will help to support children's overall learning and development. Staff supervisions are frequent and identify areas they would like to enhance. For instance, staff are attending higher-level qualifications to extend their own knowledge to benefit children. Additional training has enhanced interactions between staff and children, helping to improve children's communication and language skills effectively. Partnerships with other professionals are good and effectively support children with special educational needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children well and use this knowledge effectively to plan for children's next stages of development. For instance, younger children enjoy creating sounds by tapping 'rhythm sticks' during a fun music and movement session. Older children use tweezers to pick up pom-poms to help develop strong finger muscles in preparation for early writing. All children enjoy baking cakes and playing with aromatic dough. Staff use their observations well to support the assessment process. They accurately identify where children are developmentally and know how to extend their learning overall, to help them make good progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well. They respond immediately to routines and gather quickly on the carpet, such as when the 'triangle' plays for circle time. Children are highly confident and enjoy meeting new people. They welcome others and are keen to express their own views and thoughts. Staff have made good changes to the breakfast menu, to help reduce sugar in children's diet. They have made 'food mats' showing a range of nutritious foods for children to share and discuss at snack times. Outside, children learn to manage risks well. For example, they balance on the wooden logs and climb into the tree house confidently. Staff and children have developed positive relationships, forming secure attachments. Children's care routines are effective.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points and are ready for their next stage of learning, and for their eventual move to school. Younger children enjoy making 'shaving cream cakes' in the 'bakery', developing their understanding of textures well. Older children enjoy writing 'party invitations'. They sounds out letters as they write their names, supporting early writing skills effectively. Children are interested and keen to join in.

Setting details

Unique reference number	139479
Local authority	Torbay
Inspection number	10060647
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 11
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	31
Name of registered person	The Management Committee St Matthias Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP911060
Date of previous inspection	6 March 2015
Telephone number	01803 215 068

St Matthias Pre-School and Childcare Centre registered in 2001 and is located in Torquay, Devon. It is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am until 3.15pm during term times. The pre-school offers free early years education to children aged two-, three- and four years old. There are five staff, all of whom have appropriate childcare qualifications from level 2 to 5.

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