

St John's Pre-School

St John's Church Hall, Birdsfoot Lane, LUTON LU3 2DN



Inspection date	5 March 2019
Previous inspection date	9 March 2016

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 highly experienced provider and staff team work very well together. They continually reflect on their practice and make effective changes, which benefits the outcomes for children. They are aware of each other's strengths and their peer support for each other is strong.
- The pre-school has a strong reputation with other professionals. Children who require additional support are often referred, such as by health visitors. This is because they have witnessed the effective support children receive and the good progress they make.
- Staff help children to learn about the wide range of families, cultures and traditions represented in the pre-school. One way they do this is by planning activities around children's homes and encouraging them to talk about special people and places.
- Parents and carers speak very positively about the pre-school. They say the key-person system is consistent and strong. Their children are supported to settle and they feel they are safe and cared for very well.
- Staff set up an effective learning environment for children each day. Children quickly engage in self-chosen play and planned activities. However, the routine planning of the session is not always effective. This means that children's good engagement in learning is not always sustained, as some parts of the session are too long and others are not long enough.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the structure of the morning session to enable the children to be interested and engaged in high-quality learning throughout.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's teaching and interactions with children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector observed an adult-led activity with the provider and held a discussion with her about staff's teaching skills and children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children and held a meeting with the provider.
- The inspector looked at a sample of paperwork, including staff qualifications and suitability checks. The safeguarding policies and procedures were also seen.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents and took account of their views. She also took account of the provider's reflections on practice.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good knowledge of recognising signs of potential abuse and how to escalate these concerns both in the pre-school and to outside agencies. The provider works closely with other professionals to help ensure children and families receive relevant support and information. The staff team are well qualified and motivated and staff turnover is extremely low. Despite this, the provider has robust recruitment and induction procedures in place to help ensure that all staff working with children are suitable to do so. The provider manages staff's performance through observations of their practice and supervision meetings. Staff have good opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills, through training, research and networking with other settings in the local area.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations and assessments of children's learning to recognise their development levels and to plan what they need to learn next. These are regularly shared with parents and this helps to promote continuity in children's learning. Staff teach children well through planned activities and play. For example, staff help children to learn about space and shape as they use construction toys. Children excitedly talk about making a big dinosaur house. Staff encourage them to compare the height of toy dinosaurs with the walls they are building. Children quickly work out if they need more or less bricks to make the wall the same height. Staff teach children about the world as they talk to them about other countries they have visited. Children are keen to gain information, such as by looking at guide books, maps and aeroplane tickets and asking many questions.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy being outdoors, where they have ample space to run, explore and play freely. Staff are proactive in ensuring all children benefit from physical exercise, including those who use wheelchairs. For example, they encourage children to throw and catch balls and take turns with their friends. Activities, such as these, have positive benefits for children's health and well-being. Children show good levels of independence and self-care skills. Staff encourage children to complete tasks for themselves, such as by asking them to try to put their coats on. They praise children well for their efforts and this promotes children's self-esteem. Children's behaviour is good and they play cooperatively with their peers and show respect to all members of staff.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress, considering their starting points and capabilities, and are well prepared for moving on to school. They are developing good early writing skills as they hold pencils correctly for making marks and colouring pictures. Children enjoy looking at books independently and listening to stories. They understand how stories are structured and are able to gain information from looking at pictures and asking questions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	105213
Local authority	Luton
Inspection number	10072250
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Dyer, Julie Margaret
Registered person unique reference number	RP511525
Date of previous inspection	9 March 2016
Telephone number	07939 010 808

St John's Pre-School opened in 1974. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 12 noon on Monday and Thursday and from 9am to 3.15pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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