

Inspection of St James's Pre-School

St James's Church Hall, St. James's Avenue, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4HF

Inspection date: 13 February 2020

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The pre-school provides a safe, welcoming environment where children are happy to explore and learn. Staff build good relationships with children and their families, and children have a secure sense of belonging. During circle time, children listen to stories, learn letter sounds and join in with songs and rhymes. They delight in playing alongside staff, who encourage them to be imaginative. Children freely express themselves as they explore the wide range of dressing-up clothing available. Children enjoy the free-flow environment where they can make independent choices in their learning both indoors and outdoors. They choose from the wide variety of planned activities. For example, children enjoy mark making and exploring play dough. They have access to books in all rooms. Children enjoy trips to the local library, and a well-established lending library supports them to develop a love of reading at home. Overall, children show high levels of interest. They explore, investigate and are keen to find things out. They benefit from an abundance of opportunities to play outdoors, including regular visits to the pre-school's 'water field' garden. Children learn about the natural environment and benefit from physical activity.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The manager provides staff with professional development opportunities and carries out regular staff supervision meetings. The recent introduction of Makaton signing is helping to support children's communication, particularly those who speak English as an additional language. However, there is not a strong focus on supporting staff to improve the quality of teaching and learning effectively across all rooms in the nursery.
- Children relish playing outdoors, where they have many opportunities to be physically active. Young children demonstrate high levels of coordination as they skilfully climb, swing and negotiate space safely. Children enjoy exploring the mud kitchen and splashing in puddles.
- Staff organise small-group activities that promote children's learning experiences. Children engage well as they explore fruit and vegetables. They learn how to use knives safely. Children comment on the smell of the celery sticks as they cut into them and are keen to taste new fruits.
- Leaders and managers have a clear understanding of what children need to learn. They have high expectations for every child, including those in receipt of funding, and have developed a curriculum based on children's interests. However, observations can be descriptive, but do not always identify what children need to learn next.
- The team ensures that good systems are in place to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The special educational needs coordinator has made good links with outside professionals to offer a

collaborative service and to put appropriate interventions in place to support children's individual needs. This has helped them to make stronger progress.

- Staff teach children the importance of sharing and taking turns. They promote the nursery rules and most children behave well in the setting. However, at times, staff do not consistently use effective strategies with children to deal with any unwanted behaviour. As a result, some children become disengaged and run around.
- Children bring healthy packed lunches that are complemented by nutritious options provided by staff at snack time. Staff engage in discussions about foods that are good for them. The pre-school is taking part in a healthy eating award and works with parents to help them understand how to tackle fussy eating.
- Partnerships with parents are positive. Staff keep parents well informed about their child's care and learning. They have regular parent meetings to ensure that parents are informed continually of the progress their children are making. Parents speak highly of the care their children receive and comment favourably on the friendly and approachable staff team.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a good understanding of how to protect children from harm. They know how to identify and report any concerns about children to keep them safe. Staff have a good understanding of wider safeguarding issues. The pre-school does not allow mobile phones in the nursery. Daily risk assessments are carried out to minimise potential hazards. Recruitment procedures are strong. Thorough checks and ongoing supervision help to ensure that all staff are suitable for their roles.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen staff's teaching by giving them more incisive feedback, to develop the quality of their teaching to an even higher level
- continue to develop the use of evaluative observations to identify children's next steps in learning accurately
- ensure staff manage behaviour consistently to help children understand boundaries, and help them make positive choices in their play.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY313952
Local authority	Bromley
Inspection number	10137803
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 to 5
Total number of places	68
Number of children on roll	84
Name of registered person	St James's Pre-school Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP908304
Telephone number	0208 650 1144
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2016

Information about this early years setting

St James's Pre-School registered in 2005 and is located in Beckenham, in the London Borough of Bromley. Morning sessions run from 9am until 12.20pm, Monday to Friday. Afternoon sessions run from 12.05pm to 3pm. The pre-school operates during term time only. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Frances Oliver

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk and discussed how they deliver their curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Discussions were had with the provider and the manager. The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.
- The manager and the inspector completed a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

We carried out this inspection 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.

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