

# St Catherine's Pre-school

St Catherine's Pre-school, Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 5LN



<b>Inspection date</b>	27 January 2015
Previous inspection date	17 March 2010

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Children benefit from a welcoming and inclusive setting. The staff work well together and create a friendly environment with a good range of toys and resources to enhance children's learning and development.
- Children are motivated to learn and make good progress as a result of good quality teaching.
- An established key-person system is implemented and good trusting relationships are formed, ensuring that children feel safe and secure.
- Good monitoring and review systems work to effectively identify, manage and promote children development. This enables the staff to advance children's development, including those with special educational needs, swiftly and successfully.
- Staff work well with parents and professionals involved in children's care to provide continuity of care and learning between the pre-school, other settings and children's homes.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- At the beginning of the day, children's self-chosen activities are sometimes interrupted to accommodate the routine circle-time. This means that children's enjoyment of activities is reduced at this time.
- Although nappy changing is hygienic and meets the needs of the children, the procedure followed does not fully maintain children's privacy in front of their friends.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- evaluate the routine of circle-time to enable children sufficient time to play
- review the organisation for changing nappies in order that all children have appropriate privacy during this time.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching in the playroom and outdoor play area.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and children's learning journals, and discussed these with staff.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed documentation in relation to safeguarding, risk assessments and daily attendance registers.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day.

### Inspector

Tracy Bartholomew

## Inspection findings

### **How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good**

Children are confident within the pre-school and enjoy choosing from the good range of toys and activities on offer. They have a good amount of opportunities to enhance their development and staff promote children's learning well. Children's imagination and creativity is competently incorporated into the children's day as they explore in the sand, make items from recycled cartons and boxes, and make 'biscuits' from play dough. Group times are used to enhance children's communication skills. Children listen well to each other in conversations about the weather and days of the week, and cooperate together to sing songs. Staff promote children's early literacy skills well as they read books and discuss written marks and letters they make on the chalk board. This in addition to being taught good social skills, mean that children are extremely well prepared to move on to school.

### **The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good**

Children are confident, happy and build good relationships with their friends and staff at the pre-school. They arrive eager to explore and gain a good understanding of how they can stay safe. Staff remind them to use their 'walking feet' inside and discuss the importance of waiting for their friends to move off the slide before going down. Children's good health is promoted through effective routines and teaching children the importance of healthy lifestyles. Children's gain good independence skills. When they are thirsty they get their own drinks and they learn to put on their coats before playing outside. Each day there are opportunities and activities to help children develop control of their bodies, for example as they explore and build dens using cardboard boxes and use ride-on toys in the garden. This supports their social development and physical skills well.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good**

The management team and staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. As a team they benefit from regular meetings and ongoing training opportunities to support their professional development. A robust recruitment, vetting and induction programme is followed and this ensures that the committee and staff are suitable to be in the proximity of the children. Safeguarding procedures are clear and well understood by staff. Self-evaluation is rigorous. The manager and staff have a good understanding of the pre-schools strengths and areas to improve. Parents benefit from good communication and useful information. For example, they have weekly newsletters and there are informative displays on notice boards.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	110745
<b>Local authority</b>	West Berkshire (Newbury)
<b>Inspection number</b>	835864
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	26
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	36
<b>Name of provider</b>	St Catherine's Pre-School Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	17 March 2010
<b>Telephone number</b>	07745 909 348

St Catherine's Pre-School opened in 1966. It operates from the St Catherine's Church Hall in the village of Tilehurst near Reading. The pre-school are a committee run group and offer funding to children between the ages of two-and-a-half, three and four years. The pre-school opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9.15am to 12.15pm Monday to Friday. They also offer a lunch club for children on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 12.15pm to 1pm. The pre-school employ eight staff and of these seven staff members hold early years qualifications.

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