

St Thomas Children's Centre Nursery



St Thomas Children's Centre, Bell Barn Road, Birmingham, West Midlands, B15 2AF

Inspection date	5 February 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- High priority is given to protect and safeguard the welfare of children. This is evident through the highly effective practices and procedures that successfully promote children's safety and well-being.
- The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Practitioners have an excellent knowledge of how children learn and great care is taken to ensure that learning is exciting and captures children's interests. Children thrive and flourish in this nursery and make the best possible progress in readiness for school.
- Practitioners recognise the uniqueness of each child in their care. The enthusiastic and very caring team ensure children's needs are exceptionally met. Children successfully develop a strong sense of security and highly trusting relationships with practitioners.
- Ways of monitoring the quality of teaching and learning are highly developed. Extremely high quality professional development, training for practitioners and reviews of practice mean that children continue to receive high quality learning experiences. There are very successful systems in place to evaluate all aspects of the provision to drive improvements forward.
- Practitioners provide exemplary support to foster children's personal, social and emotional development, and their language skills, through their excellent practice.
- Partnerships with parents and carers, other agencies and local schools are superb. The very effective sharing of information and involvement of parents in their child's learning and care ensure that children's individual needs are quickly identified and exceptionally well met.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the already excellent provision outdoors with resources to further extend children's mathematical skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery with the manager.
- The inspector observed teaching and learning activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector looked at a sample of policies, children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and talked to the provider and manager about their plans for improvement.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, staff and parents spoken to on the day of inspection.

Inspector

Jacqueline Nation

Inspection findings

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

Practitioners consistently achieve very high standards of learning by providing rich, varied and imaginative experiences for children. Effective teaching strategies ensure that children are able to initiate their own play and explore their interests. Observations are used very effectively to make precise assessments of children's achievements and plan their next steps in learning. Practitioners spend much of their time at the children's level providing a high level of support. They respond very well to the needs of children and help them develop their language and imagination through role play. Children play at their own pace and become absorbed in washing and caring for their babies, and pretending to cook food in the home corner. Excellent opportunities are provided for children to play outdoors and they explore the space with great confidence. Leaders have correctly identified the need to strengthen resources to maximise children's mathematical skills in the outdoor area. Practitioners effectively foster children's interest in books and singing rhymes. Children love to paint, complete puzzles and build with bricks.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

This is a delightful nursery that reflects a highly inclusive ethos where all children are seen as unique individuals who are respected and treated equally. Home visits and excellent setting-in arrangements ensure children feel safe and comfortable in the nursery. Children's well-being and safety is given high priority. Children's behaviour is excellent. Practitioners gently reinforce positive behaviours to help children learn to keep themselves safe. Children who speak English as an additional language are supported very effectively in the nursery. Practitioners work very closely with parents to help children settle and develop their communication skills. The organisation of the nursery and excellent support from their key person ensures children make a confident and smooth move to their new room. This, together with excellent relationships with parents, fosters children's emotional development very successfully. Excellent attention is given to promoting a healthy lifestyle. Children learn extensive skills ready for their move to school and are very independent and confident in their self-care skills.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The leadership and management team demonstrate an excellent understanding of their responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It is evident that the whole team are fully committed to making sure children enjoy and achieve to the highest level. Practitioners fully understand their role in safeguarding and protecting children's welfare and are clear about the procedures to follow in the event of a concern. Rigorous recruitment, vetting and induction procedures are in place to ensure practitioners are suitable for their role. Practitioners' ongoing suitability is supported through highly effective procedures for supervisions, appraisals and performance management. Parents speak very positively about the nursery and the high quality care and education their children receive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	228969
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	1001298
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	70
Name of provider	St Thomas Children's Centre Nursery School Governing Body
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0121 464 0003

St Thomas Children's Centre Nursery opened in 2000. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, 15 hold appropriate qualifications from level 2 to 6, and two have Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, all year round from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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