

# St Mark's Playgroup

The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 5JA



## Inspection date

18 May 2015

Previous inspection date

7 July 2011

<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 have good relationships with staff. This is because the staff, particularly their key person, support them as they play and are always nearby to offer help when needed. Therefore, children feel emotionally secure at the setting.
- Staff provide a very good range of toys and equipment for children to explore during each session. The children have many opportunities to experience how things work and how to work with others.
- Staff teach children their good simple rules for getting along with others. Children also learn the rules to help them avoid hazards and accidents. Consequently, children learn to effectively manage their own behaviour.
- Staff have good working partnerships with parents to help them engage in their children's learning. They provide regular reviews of the children's learning and provide daily verbal updates on children's achievements. This means that parents develop a good understanding of how their children play and learn.
- The providers are committed to providing supervision sessions and training for staff. Recent staff training on letter sounds has had a good impact on the children's outcomes. Therefore, they are all making good progress in their speech and language skills, given their starting points and abilities.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- The staff provide a good selection of books in the book area. However, they do not purposefully provide books in the different areas of learning for children to use as they play.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- further promote the use of books throughout the environment so that children may gain a clearer understanding that books have a purpose.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled a variety of paperwork, including the nursery's safeguarding policy and children's progress records.
- The inspector talked to managers, staff, children and parents to gain their views of the setting.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation in the pre-school room.
- The inspector observed the interaction between staff and children, indoors and outdoors.

### Inspector

Linda Coccia

## Inspection findings

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

Staff competently observe and assess children's progress. They plan activities to cater for the needs of each individual child. The manager regularly checks the children's records to ensure staff are accurately recording children's achievements. She also effectively monitors the educational programme to make sure each child is included in activities to meet their next steps and help them progress further. Children receive good support in preparation for their moves to school. Staff effectively use different activities to help children recognise letter and number shapes, develop their pencil control, and listen to instructions. The children learn to manage their own needs, such as taking themselves to the toilet and getting themselves dressed in coats and shoes for outdoor play. Staff accompany the children on visits to local schools and invite reception teachers to meet the children at the playgroup. Staff talk to children about what school is like so that children look forward to the changes with anticipation.

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

Children choose from a wide choice of nutritious food at snack time. They competently help themselves to cereals and fruits and can pour their own milk and drinks. They are also able to use cutlery proficiently to butter their own crumpets or bread. Children have regular discussions with staff about which foods are good for their bodies. This means that they learn about healthy food. Children have good opportunities to participate in physical play activities. They learn how to look after their bodies by drinking water regularly and wearing hats when it is sunny. They also learn to keep themselves safe in emergencies by participating in the playgroup's regular emergency evacuation drills. They learn to listen carefully to the staff's instructions. This promotes their safety and skills for future learning.

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

Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities to safeguard children. They all hold Disclosure and Barring Service enhanced checks. They regularly discuss child protection issues to reinforce their understanding and knowledge. Therefore, they support the well-being of children at all times. The manager promotes good partnership working with the local children's centre and with other health and education professionals who support children if required. The manager effectively uses the views of staff, parents and children in her evaluations of the setting. Her resulting improvement plans consider the outcomes for all children. For example, how best to deploy staff to achieve more one-to-one time for each child to further promote their learning.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	103847
<b>Local authority</b>	Medway Towns
<b>Inspection number</b>	839258
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	32
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	37
<b>Name of provider</b>	St Mark's Playgroup Committee
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	7 July 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	01634 570489

St Mark's Playgroup opened in 1983. It operates from two rooms in a church hall in Gillingham, Kent. The playgroup is open each weekday, from 9.15am to 12.15pm, term time only. The playgroup is in receipt of funding to provide free nursery education for children aged two, three and four years. The playgroup employs five members of staff. The manager holds a BA (Hons) Degree in Early Years Studies. Three other staff hold appropriate early years National Vocational Qualifications at level 3 and one is at level 2.

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