

St. Matthews Pre-School

St. Matthews Church, Vaughan Road, London, E15 4AA



Inspection date	30 September 2015
Previous inspection date	18 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the 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

- Staff use observations and assessments of children's learning to plan activities that suit their developmental stage and reflect their interests. Children enjoy activities and are motivated to learn as they play.
- Management and staff liaise with parents and other professionals to ensure that all children receive the support they need to progress well.
- Staff are warm and caring and help children to form secure attachments with them. Children feel safe, secure and ready to learn.
- Staff work in close partnership with parents to support children's learning. They share news on children's progress through a home-school diary and invite parents to be involved in their children's learning in the pre-school.
- Management effectively reflects on their practice to drive forward improvements. They seek feedback from parents and ensure that they consider their views during this process.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to extend children's learning. For example, they do not always help children to explore their ideas and thoughts as they play.
- Staff do not always make the most of opportunities to promote children's independence when they complete simple tasks for them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use every opportunity to extend children's learning and explore their ideas and thoughts during activities
- develop further opportunities for children to become more independent.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the manager, members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed children at play, inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector sampled children's records and planning documentation, evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff, and policies and procedures.

Inspector

Vanessa Linehan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Management have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They use robust recruitment processes and procedures to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff receive effective support, including ongoing training and regular supervision meetings as part of their performance management. This helps them improve their practice and, as a result, teaching is consistently good. The manager monitors individual children's development and has an overview of the progress that each child makes. This helps to ensure they close any gaps in their learning. Safeguarding is effective. Management and staff are fully aware of the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child. The manager is keen to improve practice and introduce new experiences for the children to broaden their learning. For example, she has established a mud kitchen and a bug hotel in the outside area and has plans for a wodwork area in the near future.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children and their families well. They gather information from parents about their child's favourite things to help them to settle when they start at the pre-school. Staff have a strong knowledge of child development and good teaching skills. This helps them ensure that they support all children to make progress. Staff use words from children's home language to help promote their speech and language development. They ensure that they extend older children further by introducing phonics and encourage early writing skills. Children and staff come from a range of backgrounds and cultures. Children have many opportunities to share their experiences, learn about the lives of others and respect diversity.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a welcoming environment with a wide range of interesting resources and activities inside and out. Children are happy and confidently move around choosing the toys they want to play with and the activities they wish to join. Children behave well and play cooperatively together. Staff are clear about expectations and remind children of the importance of sharing and being kind to their friends. Children have nutritious snacks and learn about healthy eating. They enjoy physical exercise in the fresh air in the well-resourced outside space. They play with bats and balls, and water the herb garden. Staff help children to gain confidence and prepare for the move to school. They invite reception teachers to visit them in the pre-school and take children to the school.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress relative to their starting points when they first attend. They develop the skills they need for future learning and starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY282247
Local authority	Newham
Inspection number	826821
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Date of previous inspection	18 January 2010
Telephone number	0208 221 0191

St Matthews Pre-School registered in 2004. It is situated in Stratford, within the London Borough of Newham. The pre-school is open each weekday from 8.55am to 3.40pm, offering part-time and full-time sessions, term-time only. There are six members of staff, including the manager. All of the staff hold early years qualifications ranging from levels 2 to 4. The manager holds Early Years Professional Status. The pre-school provides funded early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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