

St. Thomas's Day Nursery

St. Thomas's Road, Tean, Staffordshire, ST10 4DS



Inspection date	1 February 2016
Previous inspection date	25 January 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 are well qualified and experienced and teaching is good. Staff provide good opportunities for younger children to freely explore and discover and the older children benefit from purposeful teaching.
- Staff work well with parents from the outset. They swiftly identify what children know and enjoy and if there are any gaps in their learning. This close partnership working helps parents and staff together to help children catch up quickly.
- Staff provide high levels of individual care and emotional support. Children are happy, confident and show good levels of interest in what is provided.
- This dedicated leadership team is determined to build on the success achieved. They use positive strategies which are welcomed by the staff to monitor and drive the quality of care and education forward.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions during activities, staff do not have high enough expectations of the more-able children to raise their learning to an even higher level in their mathematics.
- Although managers offer appropriate guidance, training and supervision to staff, they do not always use the information they gain from observing staff practice precisely to aid target setting and raise teaching to an even higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- raise higher staff expectations of the more-able children, in particular in mathematics, and increase their level of achievement
- make better use of the information gained from observing staff practice to identify and address areas for development and raise the quality of teaching even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with one of the managers/providers and held a meeting with both of the managers/providers.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Parm Sansoyer

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The two managers/providers work alongside the staff with the children. Good progress has been made since the last inspection and the quality of teaching has improved. Teaching is consistently good and on occasions outstanding. The robust monitoring systems ensure the activities and environment are organised effectively to meet the needs of all children. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Children's safety is given good priority and there are effective risk assessments in place to minimise any identified risks. Parents are regularly consulted about their views which are included in the self-evaluation undertaken by the nursery. Parents report high levels of satisfaction. They are impressed with how well the staff know their children and the progress they have made.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The robust observation and assessment system is used consistently well by all the staff. This contributes significantly in helping staff identify challenging next steps for each child based on their interests. Staff also use an interesting range of topics to provide stimulating activities across all areas of learning. Pre-school children benefit greatly from carefully planned adult-led activities which capture their interest and encourage them to think and share their ideas. Staff caring for the younger children and babies ensure they have plenty of opportunities to explore freely and discover new things. Staff join in sensitively and communicate well with them to increase their vocabulary and communication. Staff provide good opportunities for children to make marks in a variety of ways through enjoyable activities. The more-able children are beginning to write recognisable letters and their names.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are provided with healthy and nutritious meals which are freshly prepared on the premises. Children learn how to make healthy foods and drinks. They are encouraged well by staff to try new foods and also learn about how to keep their bodies healthy. Staff are warm and nurturing and children enjoy these close relationships. Children are well behaved and staff use creative and positive strategies to encourage children to learn about right and wrong. Older children are encouraged to negotiate with each other and learn to respect each other's differences, feelings and opinions. All children, including babies, use a challenging range of physical play equipment to increase and test their physical skills. There are good systems in place to share information with the schools the children transfer to.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points and are well prepared for school. Older children are keen to learn, enjoy conversation and are eager to talk about their experiences. All children enjoy the activities available and show sustained levels of interest in what is provided in relation to their age.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY217839
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	1028154
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	49
Number of children on roll	45
Name of provider	Lisa Snow and Lisa Hopkin Partnership
Date of previous inspection	25 January 2013
Telephone number	01538722208

St. Thomas's Day Nursery was registered in 2002. The nursery employs six members of staff including the providers who are also managers. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am to 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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