

St. Marks Pre-School

Somerset Road, Salisbury, SP1 3BL



Inspection date

6 December 2016

Previous inspection date

18 September 2013

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

- The leadership and management team has very clear lines of responsibility. It completes accurate self-evaluations and has a visionary action plan for the future of the pre-school.
- Children enjoy a very interesting and stimulating environment, which excites and motivates them to learn in nearly all areas. Staff show a clear understanding of their role in supporting children during purposeful play.
- Staff and parents establish a joint approach to support children's care and learning. For example, parents contribute to the children's initial assessment. They jointly discuss children's learning and development. Children typically make good progress.
- The manager and staff monitor children's development regularly to ensure children make continuously good progress from the outset and those needing extra help receive it quickly.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Recently introduced systems have not had sufficient time to raise the quality of teaching to even higher levels to help improve children's outcomes still further.
- At times, children are not as skilled in their reading and writing as they are in other areas of learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop processes to enhance the quality of teaching to help children make even better progress
- enhance opportunities for children to develop their early reading and writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children's play activities indoors and outdoors, and looked at the available resources.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and chairperson about the effectiveness of leadership and management including self-evaluation methods.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Lorraine Wardlaw

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The competent management team effectively leads the staff. Working together, they evaluate how successfully the provision supports children's progress. They plan their professional development to close any gaps in their knowledge. For example, to refresh staff's understanding of behaviour management or to strengthen aspects of the learning environment. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good knowledge of child protection issues and what to do if they are concerned about a child or staff member. Recent training includes protecting children from extreme views. There are effective systems for the safe recruitment of staff to ensure each person is suitable and fully aware of their duties. Staff liaise effectively with other professionals to support children if needed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know how young children learn in nearly all areas. Their teaching is well informed and generally effective. Accurate assessment of each child's development helps plan for future progress. Children's verbal communication and language is supported well through purposeful play and interactions. For example, two-year-olds take turns to select pictures of Christmas songs. They excitedly do the actions and sing elements of new songs they have learnt. Staff actively engage with children to enhance their learning. For example, they join in imaginative play with recyclable materials outdoors. All children enjoy learning experiences based upon their learning styles, interests and needs. For example, good use is made of the outside environment to extend children's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Parents and their children are warmly welcomed into a bright environment such as displays and photographs to capture what the children do. The key-person system is well embedded. Staff know each of the children's background and are sensitive and responsive to their care needs. Children's behaviour is good. Staff are positive role models to children who quickly learn about what is expected of them. Children are happy, confident and develop good social skills. The pre-school is an integral part of the wider community which helps them to learn and respect differences in others. Children enjoy physical challenges outdoors, gaining good coordination skills and exercise.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop a thirst for learning and are motivated to try new things. For example, they eagerly explore large pebbles in sand and water to find out what they can do. Older children talk with ease about how many children can go into the playhouse, looking at the numeral notice. They do simple number problem solving, when challenged. Those who need extra support with social skills learn to take part in small group time. Children leave with a good range of skills which helps them become ready for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY457663
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	1063264
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	69
Name of registered person	St Marks Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP906810
Date of previous inspection	18 September 2013
Telephone number	01722 330382

St Marks Pre-School opened in 1970 and re-registered in new premises in 2013. A committee of parents manages the pre-school. The pre-school operates from dedicated premises in the grounds of Wyndham Park Infant School and St Marks Junior School in Salisbury, Wiltshire. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. There are currently 13 staff employed to work with the children. Of these, two have achieved an early years foundation degree and most of the others are qualified to level 3. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs and accepts funding for early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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