

St. Matthews Pre-School

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



Inspection date

23 May 2018

Previous inspection date

30 September 2015

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 manager is very reflective and has a strong drive to improve the service provided for children and families continually.
- Staff know children well and monitor their progress effectively. Staff accurately identify gaps in learning and provide targeted support to enable children to make good progress from their starting points.
- Staff build respectful relationships with children. They tune in to what young children are communicating and follow their lead as they support them in their play.
- The environment is well organised and promotes children's play and exploration. Children arrive with energy and enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoy their time spent at the pre-school.
- Parents comment favourably about the care that their children receive. Parents speak highly of staff and feel their children's emotional needs are well supported.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not make the most of opportunities to provide further challenge to extend children's critical-thinking skills as they engage in activities.
- Some group times are not organised as effectively as possible to enable all children to remain focused.
- On occasion, children do not have sufficient time to finish activities that they are engaged with before staff ask them to tidy away.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of opportunities to challenge and extend children's critical-thinking skills further during activities and discussions
- plan group activities more effectively to engage better and maximise the learning of all children participating
- review and improve the organisation of some daily routines to enable children to have enough time to move on to the next activity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions during activities indoors and outdoors, and looked at a range of resources and equipment.
- The inspector talked with the manager, staff, parents and the children at various times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including records relating to children and staff. The inspector checked safeguarding procedures and the views of parents.
- The inspector had discussions with the manager about policies, procedures and methods of assessing and planning for children's progress. The inspector also discussed how staff work with parents and other providers.

Inspector

Joanna Wilkinson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff work well together as a team. Staff receive regular opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills, and pursue further qualifications. This helps staff feel valued and well supported. Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures staff have a secure understanding of the pre-school's safeguarding policies and procedures. They have sound knowledge of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a concern about a child's welfare. Thorough recruitment and vetting processes are in place to help ensure suitable staff work with children. The quality of teaching and learning is monitored well and includes analysis of the progress of different groups of children to ensure all children achieve well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a broad range of activities that motivates and interests children. For example, children enjoy exploring simple scientific concepts as they watch water run through different-shaped pipes and containers. They excitedly try to predict where the water will come out. Children's mathematical skills are developing well. They learn to recognise numbers, learn about shape names, colours and counting. Children talk about what they enjoy, such as playing outdoors and using the pretend cement mixer when constructing buildings using bricks and sand. Staff have made links with local schools and offer a range of opportunities to help them prepare for school. Staff promote children's language well, including those who are learning to speak English as an additional language. For instance, children enjoying learning new words and their meaning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff promote a positive attitude to learning through play, making choices and developing friendships. Staff help children to learn about good behaviour. They learn to share, take turns and understand safety. For example, staff talk about how to handle knives carefully when cutting fruit at snack time. Children's health and physical development are fostered well. For instance, staff teach children about the types of food that are good for them and will help them grow. Children enjoy the time spent outdoors, confidently climbing and balancing on different pieces of equipment.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make progress from their different starting points. Children independently manage their self-care needs and simple tasks, such as putting on their coats to play outside. Children begin to recognise letter shapes and sounds, and enjoy learning the letters within their names. Children grasp and handle resources well. For example, they firmly hold the paintbrushes and use their imagination to make patterns. They are confident and motivated learners, and are well prepared for their next stage of learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY282247
Local authority	Newham
Inspection number	1129008
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Registered person unique reference number	RP900844
Date of previous inspection	30 September 2015
Telephone number	0208 221 0191

St. Matthews Pre-School registered in 2004. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday between 9am to 3.30pm, term time only. The pre-school employs four members of staff, including the manager. All of the staff hold early years qualifications ranging from levels 2 to 6. The manager holds early years professional status. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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