

St Mary's Pre-School & St Mary's Youth Club Holiday Playscheme



St. Marys Church, St. Marys Church Office, 302d Upper Street, LONDON, N1 2TX

Inspection date	12 May 2015
Previous inspection date	24 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	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 meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff ensure that planning and assessment of children are consistent, precise and display an accurate understanding of their skills, abilities and progress. They use this information well to plan activities to ensure all children, regardless of their starting points, make good progress in their learning.
- Staff are good role models for children and are deployed well across the setting. Staff act quickly to provide clear guidance for children about what is acceptable behaviour.
- The manager has excellent knowledge and understanding of how to keep children safe and implements robust systems to maintain this.
- An effective and well-established programme of professional development means that staff receive the support they need to improve their knowledge, understanding and practice further, so that children receive a high-quality education.
- The management team carries out effective reviews of practice to ensure they identify areas of strengths and development, and implement positive changes to drive improvements forward.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not always make the best use of resources and space, to extend children's learning experiences further in order to keep them motivated and engaged.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make effective use of all resources and space available to enable children to express themselves in play more freely and creatively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and looked at relevant documentation, including policies and procedures and children's records.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Michelle Bassani

Inspection findings

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

Staff ensure that children have access to a wide range of different resources that offer interesting experiences, such as headphones and cassette recorders in the technology area and 'shop' resources for imaginative play. The quality of teaching is good and staff use different techniques consistently to promote children's learning, such as modelling and extending language, as well as using suitable questions to encourage children's thinking skills. Staff also encourage children to revisit previous experiences and use these opportunities well to build on their existing knowledge. Children develop strong communication and language skills that prepare them well for the future, including children who are learning to speak English as an additional language. For example, staff sing action songs and rhymes, and share stories with children that capture their interest.

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

Staff encourage parents to share information with them to support their child's learning and development at home and at school. Children settle in well because staff implement a strong key-person system that promotes their care and well-being. Children learn to be independent as staff encourage them to manage their own personal care, such as going to the toilet, feeding themselves at lunchtime and packing away after play. Children are well prepared for changes in the nursery routine. Staff sing various songs, for example, at the end of playtime, and this promotes children's emotional well-being and confidence. Children generally behave well and staff offer support to help resolve any disputes by reminding children of behavioural expectations. Children play outside for long periods of time where they can access fresh air and regular exercise to promote their good health and physical skills, for example, when using the large climbing equipment.

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

The manager has an excellent understanding of how young children learn and is committed to raising standards to improve outcomes for all children. Since the last inspection, she has made significant changes to improve staff practice. Effective supervision of staff means that they receive targeted training to help them improve their performance. This means that staff are developing their skills continuously to understand further how to promote children's learning. All staff have attended safeguarding training and are clear about the signs that would cause concern and the procedures for reporting these. This helps to ensure children are protected from harm. Relationships with parents and the wider community are strong and staff hold regular events and celebrations to share what they do.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY411577
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	838627
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	St Mary Islington Community Partnership
Date of previous inspection	24 May 2011
Telephone number	02077042873

St Mary's Pre-School & St Mary's Youth Club Holiday Playscheme registered in 2010. The setting operates in the London Borough of Islington. The pre-school is open between 9am and 4pm, during term times. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The manager and staff hold relevant early years qualifications.

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