

St Josephs Pre-School Unit



St Josephs RC Primary School, Coombeshead Road, Newton Abbot, Devon
TQ12 1PT

Inspection date	21 May 2019
Previous inspection date	20 October 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager and staff place an extremely high priority on promoting children's social and emotional development. For example, staff expertly encourage children to identify and celebrate their own achievements by making special 'superstar' medals.
- Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. For example, staff encourage older children to compare the shapes and sizes of beads as they thread them and extend their mathematical vocabulary well. Younger children enjoy the sensory experiences of moulding and shaping play dough. Children take part in activities with enthusiasm and make good progress from their starting points.
- Partnerships with local schools are strong and children move on in their education with confidence. For example, children have lunch in the school hall and use the school grounds for activities. They become familiar with the school environment and staff.
- The manager and staff are committed to providing the best possible service for children and families. They continually evaluate their practice to make many positive changes.
- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to encourage children to work out problems for themselves to extend their thinking skills further.
- Staff do not consistently encourage children to experiment, follow their own ideas and develop their individual creativity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more encouragement for children to work out problems for themselves and develop their thinking skills further
- develop opportunities for children to experiment and follow their own ideas to extend their individual creativity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff engaged in activities with children indoors and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed the quality of teaching and learning.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents including children's learning records.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and discussed the pre-school's self-evaluation.
- The inspector talked to children, staff and parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Margaret Baird

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager monitors children's development meticulously to identify and address any gaps in children's learning and in the curriculum. For example, the manager and staff have recently reviewed the provision of mathematics in the pre-school. They have developed a wide variety of resources and activities that children enjoy using and improve their counting and number recognition. Staff work in effective partnership with outside agencies and use funding effectively for children who may require additional support. The manager recruits and supervises staff effectively. She provides a supportive atmosphere where staff regularly share their expertise and the new skills they gain from attending training. The manager and staff know the signs that might lead them to be concerned about a child's welfare. They are clear about local safeguarding procedures.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe and assess children's development accurately and plan interesting activities that help children move on in their learning. They successfully involve parents in children's learning and there is an effective two-way flow of information that provides consistency for children's development. Staff provide daily opportunities for children to enjoy fresh air and exercise and promote their physical development well. For example, children eagerly take part in ball games in the school playground where they develop agility and good coordination. Staff organise sociable snack times where children gain independence as they enjoy helping themselves to healthy and nutritious food. Staff make the most of opportunities to extend children's communication and language skills as they sit with them and encourage their conversations.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The warm and caring staff form very strong bonds with children in the highly nurturing and calm environment they provide. Younger children settle quickly and become very secure in the routines of the day. Children benefit from extremely high-quality interactions that help them to manage their feelings and behave well towards others. For example, older children have opportunities to talk about their feelings in small and supportive groups. They listen carefully to others and respect their views. Staff create a rich and vibrant environment with a range of activities and resources that inspire children's learning. Children have regular access to forest areas where they enjoy fresh air and extend their understanding of the natural world.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain the skills needed for future learning and starting school. They develop independence and show pride in managing tasks for themselves and helping others. Children develop good early literacy skills. Older children confidently recognise and sound out letters of the alphabet and concentrate well to write their names. Younger children use chinks and pens with increasing skill and develop the small muscles in their hands.

Setting details

Unique reference number	106222
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10062522
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	St Josephs Pre School Unit Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522100
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2015
Telephone number	01626 334834

St Josephs Pre-School Unit registered in 1991 and is located at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Newton Abbot, Devon. The pre-school is privately owned. It opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions run from 9am to 3.30pm. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for children aged two, three and four years. There are five staff members working with the children, all of whom have relevant early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The manager and deputy manager have foundation degrees.

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