

St. John's Nursery Playgroup

St. Johns Methodist Church, Baker Street, POTTERS BAR, Hertfordshire
EN6 2DZ



Inspection date	28 September 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- All children are encouraged extremely well to develop good communication and language skills. Staff skilfully engage children in conversations that interest them to successfully gain their attention. They sensitively repeat words that are mispronounced to support children's understanding. Children thoroughly enjoy the positive attention and praise they receive for their achievements.
- Children enjoy a good range of physical play opportunities. They relish the challenge of developing balancing skills as they walk across wooden planks in the garden. Children enthusiastically use their hands to make marks in paint as they spread it across a table top.
- The manager has implemented a very good induction procedure for new staff. This ensures that they are well supported as they settle into nursery life. Staff learn about important information contained within policies and procedures and receive ongoing support from a named mentor.
- Children build good relationships with their key person and other staff. Children are eager for staff to be a part of some of their games and turn to them for emotional support when needed.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The current system of performance management review is not yet robust enough to fully support all staff in consistently raising their level of practice.
- Staff do not always make the most of their good relationships with parents to support them to complement and extend their children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance performance management processes for staff
- develop the strategies that are in place to support parents to complement and extend their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of persons working with children. The inspector discussed with the manager and staff how they reflect on their practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussion provided at inspection.

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are required to complete training that helps them to identify the signs of abuse. They are aware of what to do if they are worried about a child's welfare. The manager and her deputy have undertaken training that helps them to provide staff with support and advice in the event of any safeguarding concerns. Risk assessment is carried out regularly to help to identify any potential hazards indoors and outside. Staff take swift action to keep children safe and secure. Staff talk about how they feel listened to and valued by the manager. They are encouraged to feedback their views and opinions to her along with parents. There are plans in place to further develop the outdoor play area using a grant received from a large supermarket chain. The manager is pro-active in her efforts to develop partnerships with other settings that children attend.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe and assess children's development and progress. This information helps them to make decisions about how to provide challenge that meets children's individual needs. Children enjoy craft activities. Staff encourage them to notice change as they mix different-coloured paints together. Children respond well to staff who show them how to operate a remote-controlled car. They show good hand-to-eye coordination as they steer the car around obstacles. Children's understanding of mathematics is promoted as staff encourage them to count how many wheels are on their vehicle. This sparks their interest in counting as they enthusiastically identify how many doors there are. Children show good imagination while playing in the mud kitchen. They interact with others as they carry out tasks, such as preparing food and washing up.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff use a sensitive and supportive approach to behaviour management. They talk to children at a level appropriate to their understanding. Staff are calm and give children plenty of time and space to work through any emotional difficulties that they are experiencing. Children are encouraged to be independent at snack time. They make sure that their hands are clean before eating and learn how to peel fruit, such as oranges. Staff support children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they talk to them about being careful as they climb up and down large tyres in the garden.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress relative to their starting points. Children develop their senses. They use their hands to mix paint colours and show pleasure when they smell the fresh fruit at snack. Children spend prolonged periods of time problem solving as they work out how to move a battery-operated vehicle in different directions. Children learn the skills needed for their next stage in learning and eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY538418
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10077157
Type of provision	Sessional day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	St. John's Methodist Church, Potters Bar
Registered person unique reference number	RP538417
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07969 924482

St. John's Nursery Playgroup has been run continuously by a Management Board appointed by St. John's Methodist Church, Potters Bar, since 1965. The nursery playgroup re-registered as a charity in 2016. The nursery playgroup employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including the manager who holds early years professional status. The nursery playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 8.55am to 3pm Monday to Thursday and from 8.55am to 11.55pm on Friday. The nursery playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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