

St. Lawrence Pre-School

St Lawrence Village Hall, Church Road, Stone Street, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0LL



Inspection date	30 March 2015
Previous inspection date	26 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

- There is a strong partnership between parents and staff. Staff provide parents with resources and home activities to enhance children's progress in their learning and development.
- Staff are caring, warm and friendly so children form good relationships with them. This helps children settle quickly and happily because their emotional well-being is very well supported.
- Staff establish good relationships with other professionals to effectively support all children and meet their individual needs.
- The staff implement robust risk assessments, tailored to specific activities and routines. As a result, risks and hazards are identified and effectively minimised.
- Staff have sound knowledge of how children learn and tailor their planning to meet the needs of every child. This means the quality of teaching is good, and children are individually supported to reach their full potential. As a result, children make good progress relative to their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not always consistently supported to be independent in their self-care. For example, tissues are not in children's reach to enable them to wipe their own nose.
- There are fewer interesting resources, both inside and outdoors, for two-year-old children to make marks to promote their early literacy skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the inside and outdoor environment with additional resources to promote early writing and literacy skills for two-year-old children
- provide further opportunities within the environment to enable children to develop their self-care skills, such as providing tissues in children's reach for them to wipe their own nose.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked with parents and sampled their views from feedback forms.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and children's play activities and accompanied the provision on their annual Easter 'Bunny Hop'.
- The inspector looked at the providers procedures for managing risk and sampled a range of risk assessment documentation.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records including their progress trackers and planning documentation.
- The inspector spoke with children and members of staff at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the supervisor, deputy and members of the management committee.

Inspector

Hilary Welland

Inspection findings

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

Overall, children are provided with a welcoming atmosphere with exciting, interesting resources and activities both inside and outdoors. Staff develop children's mathematical understanding well during daily routines and play. For example, they count the number of children present during registration and discuss adding one more or one less when someone else comes in or leaves. Staff encourage children to learn through their own investigation and discovery. They learn about the natural world through exploration outdoors, such as, digging for worms in the mud kitchen or discussing why the magpies are chattering loudly in the trees. Staff support children's communication and language development well. They introduce additional vocabulary and use some signing, visual props and pictorial prompts. This supports all children to develop their attention and listening skills, and particularly benefits younger children or those with additional needs, to embed their understanding of the spoken word.

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

Staff are good role models. Children play happily and understand routines. They learn how to manage their behaviour, share toys and be considerate of others. Staff help children to develop a good understanding of healthy lifestyles. They encourage children to play in the fresh air, go on country walks and be physically active. For example, they eagerly walk up the hill to take part in their annual 'Bunny Hop', enthusiastically taking part in an obstacle course, using their physical skills to crawl, jump and run around. They enjoy healthy snacks, and follow good hygiene routines, washing their hands after outdoor play and before eating.

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

The supervisor is reflective, evaluating the provision to strive for continuous improvement and good quality. She ensures staff access regular and appropriate training. This means their knowledge and expertise is continually strengthened, which supports children to progress very well. Staff have secure understanding of their responsibilities in regard to child protection matters. They are fully aware of relevant policies and procedures and where to go to report any concerns. This helps them to keep children safe. Management undertake bi-monthly staff supervision, alongside regular meetings. Staff contribute ideas to evaluate provision, plan accordingly and discuss their training requirements. As a result, staff feel valued, and show commitment and enthusiasm to deliver good quality provision and continuously improve practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY239264
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	837125
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	23
Name of provider	St. Lawrence Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	26 May 2011
Telephone number	01732 763354

St. Lawrence Pre-school registered in 2002. It is committee run and operates from the small hall within the village hall, in Stone Street, near Sevenoaks, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9.15am to 12.15pm and on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:15pm to pm, during term time only. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The pre-school employs seven members of staff. Of these, two hold qualified teacher status, and one a level 3 qualification.

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