

St Monica's Pre School

St Monica's Close, Appleton, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 3AG



Inspection date	11 March 2016
Previous inspection date	1 February 2010

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The well qualified and highly experienced staff team demonstrates an exceptional knowledge and understanding of how children learn and develop. There is an extensive range of highly stimulating and challenging activities to promote children's learning at every opportunity. This supports children extremely well in making outstanding progress.
- Children are extremely confident, self-assured and highly motivated to learn. They make individual choices in their play and continually extend their own learning. Their behaviour is exemplary as they work collaboratively together, sharing their thoughts and ideas.
- Staff work tremendously well together and their engagement and enthusiasm in children's play are inspiring. Children develop strong emotional attachments with their key person and build very good friendships with their peers.
- Staff value and respect parents as partners in their children's learning. They exchange extensive information about children's progress and guide parents exceptionally well in ways to support children's learning at home. Parents' comments are overwhelmingly positive and partnerships with them are a key strength.
- Children develop an exceptional understanding of how to manage risks and challenges, relative to their age. For example, they carry out their own risk assessments in the outdoor area. The development of their physical skills is outstanding, enabling them to manage their personal independence exceptionally well.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- analyse the already effective monitoring systems even further to ensure all children continue to make rapid progress in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the pre-school manager. She looked at relevant documentation, including the pre-school's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector took into account the written views of parents during the inspection.

Inspector

Karen Cox

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management team and staff take extremely effective measures to keep children safe. The entire staff team has a very clear understanding about safeguarding children and how to refer child protection concerns to the correct authorities. The manager's evaluation of the pre-school is sharply focused, extremely accurate and highlights plans to strengthen monitoring systems even further. There is a real pursuit of excellence in the pre-school. The manager and her staff team constantly reflect on how the provision can be further enhanced. The attention to very purposeful, ongoing staff supervision provides the manager with detailed information relating to staff's practice and interactions with children. Staff observe each other's teaching and support each other to reflect on their practice. This means they are constantly evolving and continuing to enhance the quality of teaching.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Consistently high-quality teaching led by children's interests ensures that all children are engaged in purposeful play. Staff have an outstanding knowledge of children. They are systematic and meticulous in using observations to assess children's development and identify challenging next steps in their learning. Parents are invited to information workshops and stay-and-play sessions to find out more about how their children learn. Staff are natural communicators. They constantly pose challenging questions to stretch children's thinking and encourage them to talk. Children solve problems together and thoroughly enjoy collaborating with each other as they build an obstacle course and develop their plans to construct a space rocket. Meticulous planning for each child provides wonderfully exciting and fun activities.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Highly personalised settling-in sessions and excellent information sharing help to ensure children settle very quickly. Children are happy, relaxed and show high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Staff are wonderful role models for children, demonstrating polite, friendly and patient behaviour. Children are incredibly helpful, respectful and caring towards each other. They are provided with excellent opportunities to learn how physical exercise contributes to a healthy lifestyle. For example, children learn about the effect exercise has on their heart rate and how they must warm up and stretch their muscles before they begin their physical activities. Children thrive because staff recognise their efforts and offer praise for their achievements.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make outstanding progress in their learning and development from their starting points. They develop excellent social, communication and physical skills, securing the skills they need for their future learning and the move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY395744
Local authority	Warrington
Inspection number	1033107
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	35
Name of provider	St Monica's Catholic Pre School Committee
Date of previous inspection	1 February 2010
Telephone number	01925 269258

St Monica's Pre School was registered in 2009. The pre-school is organised by a committee of governors and representatives from the school. The pre-school employs five members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time only. Sessions are from 8.45am until 3.15pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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