

Arnold St Mary's Pre-School



Family Centre, St Mary's Church, Arnold, Notts NG5 8HJ

Inspection date	14 March 2019
Previous inspection date	15 December 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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 manager demonstrates her absolute commitment to providing children with the highest-quality care and education. She is fully committed to professional development for herself and her staff team to continue to extend their knowledge and skills even more. The manager pursues excellence in every aspect of her provision and has extremely high expectations for what children can achieve.
- Staff have exceptional knowledge of the children they work with. Assessments of children's development are very accurate. Staff speak with authority on the areas of development they are focusing on with each child. Children make exceptionally good progress.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Staff work tirelessly with parents to support, guide and share development information with them. They are confident and creative in their approach to ensure all parents are actively involved in their children's learning and development. Parents speak very highly of the staff and the pre-school.
- Children are incredibly independent and given a great deal of choice in what they do. Staff respond to children in a wonderfully warm and respectful manner. Children's behaviour is exceptional for their age.
- Children are provided with wonderful opportunities to explore the natural world. Staff take children on weekly visits into the community. Children enjoy a range of activities and experiences, such as having tea in the local café, visiting the shops and exploring nature. They learn how to look after their local environment. Boys, in particular, thrive as they have plentiful opportunities to play and learn outdoors.
- Staff are supported superbly well by the management team. They comment that they are respected team members who feel valued and listened to. Supervisory sessions are highly effective at maintaining outstanding teaching across the pre-school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to monitor and evaluate the impact that all group times have on children's development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during indoor and outdoor activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children during group time, free play and planned activities. She evaluated these with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the pre-school manager and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views. She also spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including the pre-school's safeguarding procedures and children's observation and assessment records. She also reviewed the pre-school's evaluation documents and discussed other methods of reflective practice.

Inspector
Carly Polak

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Staff are very well qualified and experienced childcare professionals. Management works closely together to focus on particular areas within the pre-school. It reflects on different aspects of the routine to continue to enhance children's experiences. It is aware of the need to closely evaluate the different group times to ensure all children continue to be motivated and challenged. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have an exceptionally strong understanding of their role in keeping children safe. They work well with external agencies to ensure children and families receive the help and support they need. The manager monitors groups of children's development and identifies children who may be at risk of not meeting typical levels of development. Extra support is then put in place to help close any gaps in children's development quickly.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff use their expert knowledge of how children learn through play to plan an environment each day that captures and extends learning for children. Staff embrace children's interests and are excellent at following children's lead and enhancing their learning. An example of this is 'Robin the robin'. Children observe a robin in the garden over several days and become intrigued by him. Staff talk to the children about birds and their habitats, and take lots of photos of the robin to share with parents. Children visit a pet shop to buy bird feed and take part in a woodwork activity to make their new birdhouse. Children delight in talking to visitors about their robin, showing off their excellent communication skills. Children experience a curriculum that is rich, challenging and provides enjoyable learning experiences that help them to make the very best possible progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are kind, friendly and welcoming and they ensure children are happy and settled at pre-school. Staff are excellent role models who help children to develop an exceptional understanding of personal safety. Children learn how to keep themselves safe while outdoors and learn how to use tools safely. All staff speak gently and with great consideration. They have exceptionally positive attitudes to children, which helps even younger children to feel emotionally secure. Staff organise an impressive and highly stimulating outdoor environment that children value and respect. Children have an abundance of opportunities to be active. Outdoor play is at the heart of the setting, promoting children's health and well-being.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children grow in confidence and gain strong social skills. They are active and confident learners, who independently initiate their own play. All children make exceptionally good progress from their starting points. Younger children in receipt of additional funding make excellent progress in their communication and language development. They concentrate and complete tasks extremely well for their age. Older children develop their mathematics and early literacy skills. They use tape measures to measure each other and the floor, and then record how big they are by making marks on paper. Children are confident and motivated learners and are very well prepared for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	253228
Local authority	Nottinghamshire County Council
Inspection number	10065271
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Arnold St Mary's Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP524684
Date of previous inspection	15 December 2015
Telephone number	07969 544 137

Arnold St Mary's Pre-School registered in 1969 and is located in Arnold, Nottinghamshire. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9.15am to 3.15pm on Wednesday. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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