

Fellowship of St Nicholas

St Nicholas Centre, 66 London Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN37 6AS



Inspection date	14 December 2016
Previous inspection date	18 July 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the 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

This provision is good

- Staff know children well and make accurate observations that enable them to successfully establish each child's stage of development.
- Children arrive happily and settle quickly in the safe, friendly and welcoming environment. They make independent choices about their play from a wide variety of good-quality resources.
- Staff are very caring and provide good support for those children who need additional help to enable them to reach their full potential. All children make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- Staff form excellent partnerships with parents and these contribute significantly to children's well-being and health. For example, the nursery staff provide courses for parents that show them how to provide a healthy diet on a low budget for children.
- The management team is well motivated and keen to improve the quality of the provision. The newly appointed manager and her line manager implement effective monitoring and coaching of staff that helps to raise quality and standards in the nursery.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently move everyday routines, such as lunch preparation, on quickly enough to help ensure all children are fully involved in purposeful activities.
- Staff do not consistently use small group activities effectively to build on children's interests and skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- revise the routines of the day to help children remain involved in purposeful activities
- review the organisation of some small group activities to help ensure they consistently interest and challenge children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and in the outdoor area.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector held meetings with staff and managers.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to at the inspection and from the provider's parent questionnaires.
- The inspector looked at the provider's self-evaluation form and development plans.

Inspector

Alison Weaver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of how to safeguard children and protect them from extreme views and harm. Since the previous inspection, staff have formed stronger links with other early years providers that help them ensure more consistency in children's education. Staff work effectively with outside agencies and address any concerns about children's development quickly. The strong management team successfully monitors children's progress. Managers address any identified weaknesses in children's progress, teaching and planning effectively. For example, staff's recent training enables them to plan outdoor activities that help extend boys' mathematical and writing skills further. Good use is made of additional funding to help improve children's learning experiences.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff interact well with children. For example, skilful questioning by staff encourages children to express their ideas and views. In addition, staff help children retell their favourite stories. Staff focus well on increasing children's strong communication skills. They give children confidence to plan and make decisions, for example, when making party hats. Babies explore their world and babble happily in response to adults. There is a good two-way exchange of information between staff and parents that enables them to work effectively together to extend children's learning at home as well as in the nursery.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form strong emotional bonds with adults. For example, babies enjoy cuddling up to their special adult when they need reassurance. Staff reinforce children's good understanding of acceptable behaviour effectively. For example, very young children understand what is expected when an adult holds up a 'stop' picture card. Children know when they need to listen and they learn to share resources. Older children show care for their friends and value and respect differences. Children develop strong physical skills and enjoy plenty of exercise, including dance activities with their parents in the nursery.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are prepared well for the move on to school. Children are confident and independent. They manage their own personal care needs well, such as brushing their teeth and preparing snacks. Children willingly take on tasks, such as mopping up after a water play activity. They develop a strong sense of security and belonging. Children have good social skills and play well with others. They concentrate well at tasks and persevere. Children readily ask for help from adults when they need it.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511215
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1061613
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	118
Name of registered person	Fellowship of St. Nicholas(The)
Registered person unique reference number	RP520763
Date of previous inspection	18 July 2013
Telephone number	01424 423683

The Fellowship of St Nicholas nursery registered in 2003. It operates from the first floor of a building in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. The nursery operates from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, for 48 weeks of the year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 15 staff. The early years services manager holds early years teacher status and the manager holds qualified teacher status. There are 10 staff with a relevant qualification at level 3 and two with a qualification at level 2.

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