

First Steps @ Roko

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY365331 |
| Inspection date | 07 April 2008 |
| Inspector | Lynn Reeves |
| Setting Address | Roko Health & Fitness Club, 442 Copnor Road, PORTSMOUTH, PO3 5EW |
| Telephone number | 02392 651400 |
| E-mail | firststeps.roko@gmail.com |
| Registered person | First Steps Nursery (BMTH) Limited |
| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | Full day care, Out of School care, Crèche |

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

First Steps @ Roko has been registered since 2007. It operates from a room on the ground floor of Roko Health and Fitness premises which is in the Copnor area of Portsmouth. The nursery, crèche and playscheme are registered for 62 children. The nursery is open for sessional and full day care Monday to Friday 08:00 - 18:00 all year, apart from bank holidays and a week at Christmas. The crèche is available on a sessional basis, and is open the same time as the nursery. The playscheme is open all school holidays from 08:30 - 17:30.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and how to prevent the spread of germs as they wash their hands before eating, after toileting and playing outside. The toys and play provisions are cleaned on a regular basis. However, the procedures for preventing the spread of infection are not consistent in the play scheme. For example, the table tops are cleaned with anti bacterial spray before lunch is served, although, this is not done before the children have

their snacks, which impacts on children's health. Children discuss the importance of staying healthy, for example, drinking plenty of water and to have lots of exercise to stay fit.

Children benefit from a range of physical activities to promote their large muscle control, for example, playing various ball games both indoors and outdoors, throwing and catching Frisbees, playing tennis, squash and swimming. Cooked lunches are available if requested or the children can come with packed lunches sent from home. Children's dietary needs are recorded on records to ensure their safety. The children are protected and kept healthy through well stocked first aid boxes and the procedures for recording accidents and medication.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Space and resources are organised to ensure children can move safely around the setting and the toys and equipment are checked regularly for damage and cleanliness to safeguard children. Children learn how to stay safe as they discuss the play scheme rules before the start of each session, for example, no running or throwing things because people might get hurt. Staff are aware of potential hazards to keep children safe, they complete risk assessments of all areas used by the children. However, children's safety is not fully promoted within the play scheme because children are not told what to do if they hear the fire alarms and evacuations have not been practised, which impacts on their safety.

Children's welfare is promoted with regard to child protection, as the staff fully understand the procedures to follow should they have a concern, including the procedure to record any pre-existing injuries that children may arrive with.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play well together and form good relationships with each other and their peers. Most children enthusiastically take part in group circle activities, for example, playing wink murder and Chinese whispers and the staff members interact well with the children. Children enjoy colouring and writing their own stories; they use their imagination explaining to each other what the titles of their stories are. However, opportunities for them to develop their creative skills are limited because resources are not easily accessible to them. Children take part in projects such as making things with salt dough and collecting collage materials to make miniature gardens. Lots of activities are focused around physical play, for example, ball games, tennis and swimming and the children enjoy these, which enable them to work as part of a group. However, children have limited access to different activities and resources within the setting to express themselves or to keep them fully stimulated.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access toys and resources that reflect diversity to teach them about the wider world. Children show sensitivity to each other as they share, take turns and play nicely together. Children's self-esteem is promoted as staff use praise, encouragement and act as good role models, remaining calm and explaining what is acceptable. Procedures are in place for the inclusion of children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children learn what is acceptable through the club rules and boundaries. Unwanted behaviour is discussed with parents to ensure

a consistent approach. Parents are provided with information via the parent pack, notice boards and through daily discussions with staff. Newsletters, questionnaires and comments cards ensure parents can contribute their ideas. Policies and procedures are made available and a complaint procedure has been introduced, which ensures the safety and welfare of children is promoted.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are able to move freely and in safety around the setting. Staff organise a range of indoor and activities for the children, although access to some resources are limited. Staff work well as a team, sharing new ideas and practices, and maintain the adult to child ratios to ensure children are well supervised. New staff are offered an induction programme, personal references, health and police checks are carried out to ensure their suitability to work with children.

Children's health, safety and well-being are promoted as the setting has a range of written policies and procedures. Most required documentation is in place and stored securely to maintain confidentiality, although, the daily registers have relevant details missing. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- further develop the procedure for promoting children's health with particular regard to snack time
- devise and practise a procedure to keep children safe in the event of a fire within the play scheme to ensure they can exit safely and maintain a fire log book

- ensure children have access to a full range of activities to keep them stimulated and interested
- ensure the daily registers for children and staff are maintained with accurate times of attendance

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk