

First Steps Pre-School

The Bungalow, Manor Park C of E V A First School, Mellstock Avenue, Dorset, DT1 2BH



Inspection date

2 February 2015

Previous inspection date

11 June 2009

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

- Staff plan a good range of motivating play activities, which encourage children's participation and promotes their learning through play.
- Children have great fun cooking pretend meals in the home corner and dressing up as firemen or princesses. This actively encourages children's imagination and creativity.
- Staff create an exciting outside play environment, which provides a wealth of positive learning opportunities. Children explore these with great interest and pleasure.
- Staff promote children's language development effectively through positive use of challenging questions, which actively prompts children's discussion.
- Staff are very caring and provide a warm welcome, which helps children settle easily.
- Management and staff continually reflect on the provision. They form clear action plans to help develop the quality of practice, which effectively secures improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not fully developed ways of using information shared with parents so they can fully support children's development from the outset.
- Staff do not always maximise opportunities to encourage and reinforce children's awareness of written number shapes within some counting activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make more use of information shared with parents regarding their child's development to fully support children's learning when they first attend
- make more use of the written numbers to further support and reinforce children's understanding of early mathematical concepts.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's interaction with staff indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector had discussions with the registered person, the manager and staff.
- The inspector sampled documentation, such as the operational policies, required records and the pre-school's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken with at the visit.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation of an activity with the manager.

Inspector

Mary Daniel

Inspection findings

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

Staff recognise children's interests in play. They effectively use their observations of children's achievements to identify their next steps of development. This helps all children make good progress as activities build on their developing abilities. Staff hide triangle, circle and square shapes in the well-resourced outside area and children eagerly find and name these. Staff ask children to count how many currant buns are left as they sing a favourite song about a shopping game. This actively encourages children's early problem solving skills. However, staff do not always extend children fully by reinforcing the written number shape within children's counting songs and activities. Parents comment that their children are very happy at the pre-school and staff are friendly and caring. However, staff gather very little information from parents about children's development when they first attend. This reduces their ability to plan effectively for children's learning from the start.

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

Staff form positive relationships with children and praise them often. Staff encourage children to share with their friends. This helps children develop positive attitudes to others and play cooperatively. Staff encourage children to take responsibility by being the snack helper. This actively helps children gain confidence and motivates their independence. This prepares them very well for their move to school. Staff teach children to look and listen for cars on outings. Children enjoy helping assess risks within the garden. This actively helps children learn to keep themselves safe. Staff promote children's good health very well. They take children to a local market to buy fresh vegetables to make a tasty soup. Children enjoy playing outside and enthusiastically push their scooters around the playground. This helps children develop good coordination and control and motivates them to exercise regularly.

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

Management and staff show a good awareness of their responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Management follow clear recruitment, induction and supervision processes with staff. They continue to update their qualifications through ongoing training. This actively helps staff to promote and develop children's care and learning. Management and staff work very well together as a team. They have a clear understanding of safeguarding issues and procedures to follow a concern, which promotes children's welfare. Management regularly monitor children's progress and identify any gaps in their learning. This includes sharing information with other settings children attend. This helps to provide a consistent approach and promote good outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY319318
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	828107
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	51
Name of provider	First Steps Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	11 June 2009
Telephone number	01305 250600

First Steps Pre-School registered in 2006. It is situated within the grounds of Manor Park Church of England School in Dorchester, Dorset. The pre-school is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.15am to 3pm and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.15am to 12.15pm, term-time only. This parent committee run group receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. There are six staff employed, of whom, one holds Early Years Professional Status (EYPS), three hold early years qualifications at level 3 and one at level 2.

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