

My First Wordâ€¢ grows up

Ditchling Road, BRIGHTON, BN1 6JG



Inspection date

30 March 2015

Previous inspection date

23 October 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
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		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The quality of teaching is variable. Staff do too much for children during some adult-led activities. Consequently, activities are not always challenging enough and children lose interest.
- Staff do not fully engage all parents in their child's learning at home. For instance, they do not routinely offer suggestions for activities that parents can continue at home to support their child's individual development.
- Staff do not share sufficient information about children's ongoing development with other early years settings that children attend. Therefore, children do not benefit fully from a consistent approach to their learning.
- Managers do not always ensure that monitoring of staff practice is rigorous enough and that development plans focus sufficiently on improving children's achievements.

It has the following strengths

- Staff have warm and positive relationships with children. They pay particular attention to helping children feel settled and secure when they first start. This promotes children's emotional and physical well-being and means they settle well.
- Staff provide a safe and welcoming play environment with a wide range of resources.
- Parents praise the staff team and find them friendly and helpful. They are pleased with recent improvements, such as a weekly email with information about topics they are covering.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- improve the consistency of teaching to ensure that planned activities always offer children sufficient challenge and build on their skills.

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

- provide parents with more information about how they can support their child's learning at home
- establish systems for ongoing communication with other early years settings that children attend
- improve the consistency of the monitoring of the provision to make sure that development plans are well targeted to further improve the quality of teaching.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children taking part in activities indoors and outside.
- The inspector had discussions with the deputy manager and staff.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation including children's files and evidence of staff suitability.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an adult-led activity with the deputy manager.

Inspector

Rebecca Khabbazi

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Staff do not always plan activities effectively to help all children make as much progress as possible. Children were keen to make cakes for Easter. However, staff broke up cereal for children and mixed the ingredients together rather than enabling children to attempt these tasks. This means children missed valuable learning opportunities. Nonetheless, staff are enthusiastic and have worked hard to make some important improvements to how they observe and assess children. This has had a positive affect on children's overall progress. Staff plan a broad range of activities and respond well to children's interests. They teach children some useful skills that help prepare them for the next stage of learning and for school. They talk to children and encourage conversations, which supports children's language and communication skills. Staff help children sound out letters and write their name. They encourage them to solve simple problems when they find the correct pieces for their puzzle. Children express their creativity when they make patterns in paint using a potato masher. They listen to stories attentively and with enjoyment.

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

Staff make daily checks of the environment to ensure children can play safely. They supervise children vigilantly at all times. Children grow in confidence and independence when they select resources for themselves and help tidy away. Staff offer children gentle guidance and support, which helps them behave well. They used the sand timer independently while they waited for their turn on the trampoline. Children share well with their friends. Staff promote children's good health effectively. They provide balanced meals and snacks that meet children's nutritional needs. Children learn to manage their own personal needs. They follow simple good hygiene routines such as washing their hands before they eat. Children have daily opportunities to be active. They enjoy practising their physical skills as they play outside or take part in an exercise session with staff.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

Staff have improved their understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage since the last inspection. Although they are still developing the consistency of teaching, they now monitor children's progress more effectively. This helps them identify any areas where children need additional support. Managers complete appropriate checks on staff to make sure they are suitable to care for children. They monitor staff performance through regular supervision. Staff make appropriate use of local training opportunities, for instance to improve the planning for younger children. They have worked closely with early years advisors to begin to drive improvement. Staff attend child protection training and know what to do if they have concerns about a child. This helps safeguard children's welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY457966
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	997284
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	My First Word Ltd
Date of previous inspection	23 October 2014
Telephone number	07825368974

My First Word... grows up registered in 2013. It operates from a building within the grounds of St Mathias Church in Brighton, East Sussex. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. There are five staff who work at the nursery. Of these, three hold childcare qualifications at level 3 and one holds a level 2 qualification.

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