

First Steps - Fountain of Life Pre-School



The Well Christian Centre, Swaffham Road, Ashill, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 6BT

Inspection date

25 March 2015

Previous inspection date

21 January 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching is outstanding. Staff provide an exceptional and varied range of high-quality learning experiences inside and outdoors. As a result, children are motivated and eager to learn. They are supported very well to make rapid progress in their learning and development.
- Staff understand children's individual needs exceptionally well and they assess their specific needs accurately. As a result, they plan and provide an exceptionally high-quality learning experience for all children.
- Children are extremely happy and settled in this warm and welcoming setting. They learn to manage their behaviour, following the staff's excellent example, which prepares them well for school. They form exceptionally secure emotional attachments to staff.
- Staff develop excellent partnerships with parents who are constantly involved and very well informed about their children's progress and achievements. Parents are actively engaged in their children's learning in the setting and at home.
- The management team is highly effective. Highly effective supervision of staff performance ensures they continuously review practice and drive improvement. The manager accurately recognises the importance of all staff continuing to undertake professional development opportunities to enhance their excellent skills and understanding.
- Children benefit from the staff's excellent teaching skills and how they promote mathematical development through meaningful play. As a result, children develop the curiosity to explore mathematical concepts, such as measure and weight in their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider how to ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm to the maximum during art craft activities, for example, by inspiring children to further develop their own ideas and strategies for doing things.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the three classrooms and the garden.
- The inspector spoke with staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at activity planning, records of children's learning and a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector held meetings with the setting manager throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector spoke to parents.

Inspector

Kerr Cobbett

Inspection findings

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

Staff use their excellent knowledge of how children learn and high-level teaching skills to provide an excellent range of learning opportunities. A wide range of resources enable the children to develop essential skills for future learning. For example, children explore the textures of real vegetables in their role-play shop and use the scales to weigh objects. This develops their interest in mathematical development while engaged in their play. Staff extend learning further through skilful questioning and participation. At the lunch table, staff use mathematical language to describe children sitting opposite each other. This excellent teaching provides a varied, exciting and challenging learning environment to develop essential skills for children's next stage in learning. Partnerships with parents and other professionals are exemplary. Home visits and next step meetings ensure child's needs are extremely well supported. Planning and assessments are precise and sharply focused, and staff adapt planned activities to support children's individual learning needs. Staff become animated in the outdoor area as they inspire children to become fully engaged in music and movement. However, on a few occasions, art and craft activities do not provide optimal challenge for children to think critically and make links between their ideas.

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

All children settle quickly because there are exceptionally good settling-in processes to support them to be happy and secure. Staff have excellent teaching skills and use these to help children to learn the boundaries and rules in a positive way. This means children's well-being is extremely well supported. Staff have a thorough understanding of child protection and of how to keep children safe. Staff are extremely good role models and they play alongside children. Outside, children have a volunteer who comes in and helps them to learn about growing. They use herbs in their kitchen area to explore and investigate using all their senses in meaningful play. As a result, children are developing an awareness of where their food comes from and what a healthy lifestyle entails. This is also discussed during the lunchtime, where staff talk to the children about what a healthy diet is and what foods children have as treats. They also discuss what foods give us energy.

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

The manager expertly leads an enthusiastic staff team who are committed to delivering exemplary provision. Regular observation and checking of staff performance ensures consistency in practice and high standards. Staff meet regularly to discuss children's progress and the management team rigorously monitors the quality of provision through an exceptionally detailed and effective system. The management have an excellent assessment procedure through which they highlight any trends in development. This means that any potential learning needs are quickly identified and effectively managed. This maintains the high standards and ensures children are making rapid progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY374607
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	858257
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	The Fountain of Life Church Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2009
Telephone number	01760 447 444

First Steps - Fountain of Life Pre-School registered in 2008. The pre-school operates every weekday, except for a Thursday. Sessions are 9am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On a Friday the session runs from 9am to 12 noon. There are 10 members of staff, six of whom hold relevant qualifications to at least level 3 or above.

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