

First Steps Playgroup

The Old School Hall, Church Road, Barlestone, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV13 0EE



Inspection date

27 March 2015

Previous inspection date

22 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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:

- Ofsted have not been provided with all the relevant information about recent changes to committee members.
- On occasions, during group activities some children become distracted and are not fully engaged in their learning.
- Children are not always well supported to understand what will happen next in the daily routine.

It has the following strengths

- Children develop strong attachments with staff. This enables children to feel emotionally secure, to settle well and enjoy their time at this playgroup.
- Parents and carers are supported well to get involved in their children's learning and help raise their level of achievement.
- Staff fully understand and effectively implement child protection policies and procedures, which helps to ensure that children are protected from abuse.
- Managers ensure there is continuous improvement in the provision through effective self-evaluation and good levels of motivation for staff.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of group times so that all children stay focused and engaged in their learning
- focus more carefully on helping all children to become familiar with and understand the daily routine, for example, by introducing visual prompts to show what will happen next.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure Ofsted is informed about changes to the nominated person of a childcare provision (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure Ofsted is informed about changes to the nominated person of a childcare provision (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the staff engaging with children in a range of indoor and outdoor learning activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and the staff.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a selection of policies and procedures and the children's learning records. She also checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Amanda Tompkin

Inspection findings

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

All staff members observe children regularly and then plan activities to promote the next stages for each child's development. This promotes their development across the seven areas of learning. However, staff do not always manage group times well, resulting in some children becoming distracted and not fully engaged in their learning. The range of resources means that all children play with a variety of toys. Children benefit from many opportunities to move freely between areas and equipment. As a result, they are active in their learning while they explore. Children who speak English as an additional language are supported well. Staff use effective teaching methods, such as non-verbal communication and words in their home language. Generally, children are progressing well and are well prepared for their future learning and starting school. Generally, children respond well to staff's cues during changes in routines. However, staff have not yet fully considered further ways of supporting all children to understand the change in routine, for example, through the use of pictorial sequences.

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

Staff are deployed effectively to ensure children are supervised well. All areas of the playgroup are safe and suitable and children benefit from many opportunities to make their own decisions. Staff welcome children into the playgroup, and as a result, children are happy and emotionally secure. This is evident as children happily separate from their parents and quickly engage in play with their friends. Staff ensure that children are emotionally supported during well-organised settling-in sessions. Parents are encouraged to stay with them while they become familiar with their new surroundings. Children behave well as staff are positive role models and encourage children to share and take turns. Children have daily access to fresh air and opportunities to develop their physical skills outside. This promotes a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles.

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

The provider has not followed the correct procedures for supplying Ofsted with the required details about the changes to persons associated with the playgroup. The persons include recently appointed committee members. Although, this is a breach in requirements there is minimal impact on children in the playgroup, because committee members do not work directly with children. Recruitment and induction systems are effective and ensure that children are cared for by suitably qualified staff. Staff's professional development is supported well because an effective performance management system is in place. Staff attend regular training which improves the outcomes for children. Effective arrangements are in place to monitor the range of activities offered to children in order to extend and challenge their learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	226397
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	866281
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	64
Name of provider	First Steps Playgroup Committee
Date of previous inspection	22 February 2011
Telephone number	07903 132279

First Steps Playgroup was registered in 2001. The playgroup employs 11 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, including one with a level 6 qualification. The playgroup is open Tuesday and Friday from 9.10am to 12.10pm and on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.10am to 3.30pm during term time. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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