

YMCA Steps Nursery and Out Of School Clubs



The Childrens Centre, Westgate Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1YR

Inspection date 10 April 2015
Previous inspection date 17 April 2012

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

- Managers and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They refresh their safeguarding knowledge regularly and know what action to take should they have concerns about a child's welfare.
- Managers and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the learning and development requirements. They know each child really well and plan a wide range of interesting activities, so children enjoy challenging learning and play.
- The quality of teaching is good. As a result, children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children's well-being is promoted successfully by staff. Staff are very skilled at promoting children's confidence and sense of security, which supports their emotional well-being.
- Staff have a well-considered approach to teaching children about risk and safety. As a result, children gain good skills in managing their safety in physical play.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff offer children solutions to problems and do not give children time to consider their own ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the quality of teaching further by encouraging children to devise their own solutions when solving problems.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at play in the nursery and outdoor area, and the provision for out-of-school care.
- The inspector discussed safeguarding and improvements with the manager and registered person.
- The inspector and manager carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

Inspector

Susan McCourt

Inspection findings

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

Parents and key persons work very closely together throughout the children's time in the nursery. Parents provide initial information about children's abilities and interests, which staff use to provide thoughtfully planned activities to engage children in play. Staff make frequent observations and meet regularly with parents to involve them in their children's learning and discuss children's achievements. Staff are very attentive to children's interests and use conversation to extend and consolidate children's vocabulary. Babies share favourite books to staff so that they can share songs and look at the pictures. Staff use clear single words and short sentences to promote babies' understanding of language. As children progress, staff adapt their conversation to include description and explanation, and children are confident talkers as a result.

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

Staff foster children's independence really well and as a result, children make decisions about their play and have good self-care skills. Children are well motivated to play because staff have created interesting play areas to explore, with easily accessible toys and equipment. Children manipulate small bricks and household tools, such as spoons and scoops in their play. They enjoy climbing, and using bikes and ride-on toys, noticing when they are breathless and need a rest. This promotes their physical development. Children are very settled and confident in the nursery. Staff tailor settling-in sessions when children start and when they go up to the older groups. This promotes children's emotional development. Staff pay particular attention to promoting children's skills to manage their own behaviour. For example, staff ask children to think about how someone might feel, and give them sand timers to control turn taking. As a result, children know what staff expect of them and acquire good skills to help them in their future learning.

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

New management are taking a robust and rigorous approach to monitoring and improvement with well-targeted plans to bring about improvements for children. Senior staff involve staff, parents and children in designing new facilities, such as the natural outdoor area. Managers ask staff to share their recent training and qualifications across the team. This has a good impact on all staff skills, such as increasing staff knowledge of how to evaluate children's well-being and involvement. Managers give strong support to staff's ongoing professional development. They carry out regular appraisals and have robust supervision arrangements to help staff identify the skills they need to promote children's learning. The managers have strong links with local schools and children's services, which help them to provide highly consistent care for children's individual needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY281347
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	833562
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	Lewes & District YMCA
Date of previous inspection	17 April 2012
Telephone number	012732474599

Lewes and District YMCA Nursery and Out of School Club registered in 2004. It is run by the YMCA and operates from the YMCA buildings in Lewes, East Sussex. The nursery is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round for 0-5s. The out -of-school club is open each weekday from 3pm to 6pm during term time for 4-11s. In school holidays, the out-of-school club is open each weekday from 8.30am to 5.30pm. There are 17 staff working with the children across the nursery, after school club and playscheme, all but two of whom hold relevant qualifications at Level 3 and above.

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