

# First Steps Day Nursery

Caduceus House, Upper Warrengate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 4JZ



## Inspection date

27 May 2015

## Previous inspection date

2 June 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The quality of teaching is good. Children are provided with a welcoming, warm and stimulating learning environment in which they are motivated to learn and are happy. All children make good progress from their starting points. As a result, they are well prepared for their next stage in learning and the move on to school.
- Staff have a very good understanding of their responsibility with regard to protecting children from abuse and neglect. They have a good knowledge of the procedures to follow should they have a concern. Robust procedures ensure that the environment is safe and secure at all times; therefore, children's safety is assured.
- Staff provide children with stimulating play areas and a wide range of play resources, both indoors and outdoors. This encourages children to have fun and to explore and investigate.
- The manager and staff demonstrate a dedicated drive to improve the outcomes for children. They have worked effectively to address the weaknesses identified at the last inspection. They use self-evaluation effectively to identify and develop strategies to aid development. They take account of parents' and children's views to further promote improvement.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff occasionally do not allow children enough time to process some information or respond to challenging questions.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children to develop critical-thinking skills, such as giving them more time to process information, formulate their thoughts, and respond to the challenging questions posed during their play and learning.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector held meetings with the manager and deputy manager of the nursery throughout the inspection.
- The inspector toured the premises and the outside area accessed by the children and staff.
- The inspector observed children playing both inside and outside and spoke to the children and staff throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers both written and those spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of documentation, including staff qualifications, their Disclosure and Barring Service checks, the policies and procedures, including safeguarding and children's learning records.

### Inspector

Jane O'Callaghan

## Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching throughout the nursery is good. Staff carry out regular observations of the children during play to assess their skills and to identify their current interests and how they like to learn. Staff share this information with parents and explain how children can be further supported through their learning at home. All children access a good range of resources. Babies enjoy exploring the texture of the paint as they place their hands in it and make different patterns. Older children enjoy listening and watching the puppet and following questions about how the puppet is feeling. Staff sometimes ask children questions but do not give them enough time to answer. For example, children are not able to consider the mood of the puppet character, when asked, before staff move to the next idea. At 'good morning' time, children sit well and sing the good morning song. Children confidently sing it in several different languages, including Polish, French and German. This develops their communication and understanding of differences in the world around them.

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

Children are happy in the nursery. They smile, laugh and chat to their peers and staff as they play. This is because all staff are welcoming, supportive and sensitive to their needs. Children are well supported when they start in the setting and move confidently from room to room. Staff are very flexible and work closely with parents to help children settle quickly. Children show strong attachments to their key person. Children's behaviour is managed sensitively and there is a happy, friendly atmosphere in the nursery. Staff encourage independence in a positive manner. Children love being able to make their own choices and serve themselves healthy food and drinks. They learn how to move around the nursery with care and use tools and equipment safely.

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

Partnerships with parents are very strong. Staff spend time getting to know families when they register in the setting. Parent questionnaires are regularly sent out and the information obtained shows that parents are incredibly happy with the nursery. Staff are committed to developing the setting further. They attend regular training, both in-house and external, and information is shared at regular staff meetings. Systems to monitor all children's development are in place, including the required progress check for children aged between two and three years. These are effective in providing a broad overview of each child's abilities, skills and learning. This allows staff to identify gaps in children's development, discuss these with parents and seek further support, if necessary. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive very good support to gain confidence and make progress. Recruitment practices are robust and suitability checks are undertaken to ensure children's welfare. Thorough risk assessments are now undertaken to ensure that children can play and learn in a safe and secure environment.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY216311
<b>Local authority</b>	Wakefield
<b>Inspection number</b>	1013841
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 17
<b>Total number of places</b>	60
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	104
<b>Name of provider</b>	Wakefield and District Health and Community Support Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	2 June 2014
<b>Telephone number</b>	01924 298290

First Steps Day Nursery was registered in 1994. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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