

My First Friends Nursery

The Pavilion, Barn Rise, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 5EE



Inspection date

27 May 2015

Previous inspection date

1 December 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		Requires improvement	3
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:

- Staff answer their own questions and suggest solutions to problems. They do not give children enough time to think about what they want to say, work out what they want to do or solve problems themselves. This limits the progress children make.
- Staff do not take account of children's differing abilities and understanding when planning and organising group activities. Consequently, younger children in particular quickly lose interest.
- Staff provide limited opportunities for children to develop their independence in caring for themselves. Therefore, staff are not helping children gain important skills for school.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are caring. They show a genuine interest in individual children. For example, they have reduced the number of children attending so they can spend more time with individual children. As a result, children are developing secure emotional bonds and demonstrate they feel confident in making their needs known.
- Staff work with other professionals well. This helps to support children that have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who are learning English as an additional language.
- The leadership and management team implements effective procedures to deal with safeguarding issues. This helps to keep children safe and protect them from harm.
- Staff use strategies that are appropriate for the ages and abilities of children to help them manage their behaviour. This helps children to learn to get along with others.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the planning and organisation of group activities to meet children's differing needs and abilities, and provide them with challenging, realistic and enjoyable experiences
- improve the quality of teaching to give children more time to respond to questions, solve problems and respond with their own ideas.

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

- expand opportunities for children to be more independent and manage tasks for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children and held discussions with staff and children.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including a sample of the policies and procedures, evidence of staff suitability and self-evaluation information.
- The inspector had a meeting and carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the parents' views spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Jacqueline Walter

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is variable because some of the staff have a limited understanding of how to promote children's speech, encourage them to solve problems and develop their ideas. For example, they suggested what children could do when playing in the sand. This restricted children in developing their communication skills, as well as their thinking and imagination. Staff observe children and have suitable arrangements for monitoring their progress and sharing this with parents. However, staff do not effectively plan group activities to promote children's learning. This means that these activities do not fully motivate children to join in and learn. Staff usually join in with children's play and encourage them to explore movement in different ways. They encourage children's ball skills by inviting them to kick balls and develop a game of football. They use the local environment to support some aspects of children's development well. Children often use the adjoining community playground facilities and the local library. As a result, children learn to use challenging physical equipment and learn about their local environment.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Staff have caring relationships with the children. They use a picture board that shows children the routines of the day. This helps children learning English as an additional language and the younger children to know what will happen next and feel secure. Children learn hygiene practices through daily routines. Older children know what foods help them stay healthy because staff discuss these with them. However food is mainly prepared and served by staff, particularly during snack time. This means children have few opportunities to develop their independence and learn how to use different tools and manage this task for themselves. Staff share books and talk to children about going to school. This helps children to feel comfortable about the move to school.

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

The leadership and management team understands and implements all the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They take positive steps to ensure the environment is safe and immediately risk assess and take effective action to prevent accidents occurring again. Leaders and managers carry out appropriate suitability checks and induction procedures. This helps to ensure that all the staff are suitable for their roles. Leaders and managers implement appropriate strategies to help identify some weaknesses in practice and set targets for improvement. To improve the staff's understanding of promoting equality they attended training. Consequently, this helped them to develop children's understanding of the wider world more effectively and involve parents. For example, children, parents and staff created displays of different countries and showing where children come from.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130731
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	836288
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	My First Friends Nursery Committee
Date of previous inspection	1 December 2011
Telephone number	01273 541026

My First Friends Nursery registered in 1993. It operates from Brighton, East Sussex. The nursery is open each weekday from 8.30am to 3.30pm for 50 weeks of the year. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery employs four members of staff. All, including the manager, hold a recognised childcare qualification at Level 3.

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