

First Steps Day Nursery

Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0PZ



Inspection date

29 May 2015

Previous inspection date

29 June 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

- Staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of safeguarding practices. They fully understand the correct procedures to follow in the event of a concern for a child.
- Staff work well to help ensure children's safety. All of the staff team are qualified in first aid, which enables them to manage emergencies efficiently.
- The key person system is well established. Children have formed strong bonds with their key person and other adults who care for them. Staff work closely with parents who share information from home, which enables staff to plan for their children's initial starting points and care routines.
- Children behave well because they receive good support from staff. Children learn to share as they play together, which creates an extremely positive atmosphere throughout the setting.
- The management team uses a variety of good strategies to continuously evaluate the provision. This helps to drive improvement, which benefits children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The children cannot access the wide range of creative materials, such as paint. This means their creativity and early writing is limited because they cannot always choose freely from materials that help to enhance these skills.
- On occasion, staff do not always answer children's questions to fully extend their understanding and enhance learning as they play.

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 the creative resources so children can access them to explore and experiment freely and practise their early writing skills
- strengthen children's thinking by helping them figure out the answers to their questions to extend their learning during play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities and spoke to children during their play.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation including policies and procedures, children's records, and planning.
- The inspector tracked the progress of several children.
- The inspector held meetings with the management team.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and their parents.

Inspector

Joanne Allen

Inspection findings

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

Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn. They provide children with a good range of resources and activities to stimulate their interests. Staff effectively observe, assess and monitor children's progress. As a result, children make good progress in their learning and development. Staff skilfully extend children's awareness of simple mathematical concepts through routine play activities. They encourage children to take turns and develop their thinking skills through meaningful conversations. Children confidently talk about their experiences and staff encourage them to listen and follow instructions. Staff have established good relationships with parents which help to provide continuity in children's development. They involve them in their children's learning by providing regular updates on their progress.

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

Staff effectively support children's emotional well-being. They successfully embed the key-person system to meet the needs of children and their families. Key persons are warm and caring, and show children great affection and comfort. For example, when babies display signs of distress, key persons are quickly on hand to offer reassurance and provide them with a warm embrace. Staff promote children's physical health by providing daily access to the outdoor area. Children enjoy playing with large hoops and delight as they spin them around their bodies. A paediatric dietician designs the nutritious menus. The children enjoy the meals, which help to develop good habits for a healthy lifestyle in the future.

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

The management ensures all staff complete appropriate checks and regularly assess their ongoing suitability. They provide staff appraisals with opportunities to discuss concerns or areas for development. Management provides good opportunities for staff to continue their professional development. Staff access training and management support them to gain further qualifications, which has a positive impact on the delivery of good quality teaching. The management ensures staff implement the policies and procedures in daily practice, which supports the smooth running of the nursery. They make good evaluations that help to identify the nursery's strengths and areas for improvement. For example, improvements to the organisation of snacks mean that children's independence skills have increased at mealtimes. The older children all eat with knives and forks and are involved in preparing their sandwiches at teatime. Similarly, children in both the baby and toddler rooms are encouraged by staff to feed themselves. The management monitors children's progress. This helps them to identify any gaps in the learning of individuals or groups of children, and act promptly to ensure children's learning is progressive.

Setting details

Unique reference number	120033
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	840299
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	82
Number of children on roll	96
Name of provider	The Ashford & St. Peters Hospitals NHS Trust
Date of previous inspection	29 June 2012
Telephone number	01932 722192

First Steps Day Nursery registered 1991. The nursery is open each weekday from 7am to 6pm, except for Christmas and bank holidays. It receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery employs 21 staff; of these, two have Early Years Teacher Status and 17 hold appropriate qualifications at Level 2, Level 3 or Level 4.

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