

Little Steps (Higham Ferrers) Ltd

5 College Street, Higham Ferrers, RUSHDEN, Northamptonshire, NN10 8DX



Inspection date

1 June 2015

Previous inspection date

29 October 2013

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

- Teaching is consistently good and occasionally outstanding. Staff provide the children with a wide range of purposeful activities based on their individual likes and interests. Children are motivated to learn more and demonstrate a love of learning. Consequently, children make very good progress based on their starting points.
- The senior management team work closely together to regularly evaluate the activities and oversee all children's ongoing progress. Staff work well with other early years providers involved in children's care and learning. This means children receive a consistent and continuous approach to their learning.
- Children develop a good knowledge of the world around them as staff include everyday objects in children's play. Children talk excitedly to each other as they pretend to make soup and birthday cakes for their friends. Children demonstrate a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe as they remind their friends to blow the food, as it is hot.
- Children's safety and well-being is given a high priority. Vigorous risk assessment, stringent safety measures and effective safeguarding procedures ensure that children feel safe, and are secure. Thorough recruitment procedures ensure that newly appointed staff are suitable to care for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always recognise opportunities during everyday routines, to further develop older children's sense of responsibility and independence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide older, more capable children with even more opportunities to have responsibility for age-appropriate jobs during everyday routines, such as laying out the table for mealtimes.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff members and children during the inspection.
- The inspector held meetings with the provider and the manager of the provision.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documents.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children, the provider's self-evaluation form and improvement plan.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Andrea Price

Inspection findings

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

Staff regularly observe and assess children's learning. Parents regularly update staff about their children's achievements at home. Staff use their knowledge and experience to identify next steps in learning for each child. Children are highly engaged during adult-led activities. The youngest children explore the environment with confidence. Staff provide babies with lots of opportunities to practise their walking skills. Toddlers learn how to count as they enjoy singing number songs and rhymes. Staff effectively support children's communication and language skills. They engage children in conversation, model language clearly and introduce new words to extend their vocabulary. Children enjoy practising their early writing skills during play. They write their names in sand and are able to sound out letters. These effective teaching strategies help to prepare children for the move to school. Parents state that they are very happy with the service and are complimentary about the hardworking staff team. They feel welcomed into the nursery and believe their children have made good progress since starting.

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

The key-person system is well established and effective. Staff develop warm, close relationships with children. Children settle well, and are happy and confident to explore their surroundings. Staff encourage children to achieve their goals and regularly praise their efforts. Consequently, children are motivated to learn more. However, staff do not always offer older, more capable children opportunities to become even more independent during everyday routines. Consequently, their sense of responsibility is not always fully promoted. Staff manage children's behaviour very well. They display a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities to promote the safety, welfare and learning of children. Staff are deployed effectively and supervise children well. Children have many occasions to play outside in the fresh air. Effective procedures ensure that children are prepared well emotionally for future learning. Children moving on to school are visited by their new teachers and take part in a variety of activities to support their well-being.

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

The provider has an in-depth knowledge of the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff are well qualified, and work well as a team to deliver good quality care and teaching. They are encouraged to undertake further training and are committed to raising standards. Regular supervision meetings occur, and teaching practice is observed to ensure and promote a good quality service. Ratios are maintained at all times. The provider records and fully investigates any concerns raised, and she shares any action taken with parents. The provider has a secure understanding of matters that need to be notified to Ofsted. Staff record all necessary information about accidents to children, and records are shared with senior staff and parents. The management team accurately track and oversee children's ongoing learning and development. Partnerships with outside professionals are well established. Consequently, children receive the support they need.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY378109
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1015679
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	99
Number of children on roll	186
Name of provider	Little Steps (Higham Ferrers) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	29 October 2013
Telephone number	01933 357400

Little Steps (Higham Ferrers) Ltd nursery was registered in 2008. The nursery employs 28 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 to 6, including one with Early Years Professional status and another with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery 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.

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