

First Steps Montessori Nursery

Hawkley Village Hall, Hawkley, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 6NE



Inspection date

8 June 2015

Previous inspection date

26 June 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- The quality of the teaching in the nursery is good. Staff provide children with a variety of activities and resources, inside and out, that support their interests. As a result, they are motivated and engaged in their play. This helps to ensure that they make good progress in their learning and development.
- Staff have a good understanding of how to safeguard children. They know how to keep children safe and what action they would take if they have concerns about the welfare of a child. This promotes the well-being of children.
- Leadership of the setting is good. Staff take part in regular training to update their skills and knowledge. As a result of recent training, the outside area has been changed to extend children's learning in their self-chosen play activities using natural resources.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The staff do not use all opportunities to fully enhance children's early reading skills, particularly when supporting them in linking letters and sounds.
- Overall, staff and parents work effectively in partnership throughout children's time at the nursery. However, the good information sharing does not always start from the time children join, to enable staff to plan for their individual needs from the beginning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend children's understanding of letters and sounds by using everyday routines to promote their early reading skills
- increase the depth of information obtained from parents about children's learning and development on entry.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to children and staff during the inspection.
- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outside play areas.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider.
- The inspector looked at a variety of children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.

Inspector

First Steps Montessori

Inspection findings

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

Children use a range of toys and resources that engage them in their learning and development. Staff know their children well, they plan activities that extend their communication and language skills. For example, children take the nursery teddy home and confidently talk about what he has been doing with them. Older children enjoy sharing stories with staff, who provide them with visual props so that they can retell parts of the story to them. Staff introduce mathematical ideas in children's play. For example, when children make dough, staff encourage them to use their problem-solving skills by asking how many spoons of flour have been added. Staff observe children regularly and plan activities to extend their learning. Overall, staff have good relationships with parents. They regularly exchange information using the home-link books, so that children's learning at home is supported well.

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

Children develop good relationships with staff, who are warm and friendly. This supports their emotional well-being. Therefore, children settle happily into the nursery and engage in activities that motivate them in their play. For example, younger children enjoy playing in the outside area. They develop good physical skills as they use the rope and pulley to discover how they can move sand and small stones from the lower play area to the upper area. Staff use regular daily routines to teach children about keeping themselves healthy. As a result, children learn to manage their personal needs independently. This prepares them well for their next stage in learning, such as going to school. Children enjoy being involved in daily routines, such as helping prepare their snacks. Staff talk to children about the fruit that they eat so that they learn about making choices to promote their good health. Children behave well; staff talk to them about sharing and turn-taking so that they develop good behaviour towards their friends.

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

The provider has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has robust recruitment procedures which ensure that staff are suitable for their roles. The manager regularly reviews staff performance. She observes staff practice and targets training and support where needed. The manager regularly checks the quality of the provision to ensure that children take part in activities that promote their learning and development. Parents, children and staff contribute to the regular self-evaluation so that areas where the nursery can improve are identified. This ensures that the provision consistently provides a good quality setting for children's learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109821
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	824905
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Jane Mary Fisher
Date of previous inspection	26 June 2012
Telephone number	0777 5517185

First Steps Montessori Nursery registered in 1996. It operates in Hawkley, Hampshire, and follows the Montessori method of teaching. The nursery opens during term time on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 3pm, and on Tuesday and Friday from 1pm to 3pm. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery employs four members of staff; all staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

