

A Step Ahead at Lancing

Lancing Children and Family Centre, 42 North Road, Lancing, BN15 9AB



Inspection date	25 June 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 support children's emotional well-being positively as they develop secure relationship with their key person. Children are confident and keen to interact with others.
- Staff receive safeguarding training and are fully aware of who to contact if they have any child protection concerns.
- Staff develop good links with local schools and prepare children well for the move from nursery. For example, they encourage children to be curious and keen to learn.
- Staff use skilful questions to encourage children's thinking and expand their responses.
- Staff use the outdoor areas to encourage children's learning. For example, there are different resources and activities to encourage children to practise early writing.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The staff use a range of methods to support children with their language development. However, they do not make full use of all available techniques.
- The outdoor areas have a broad range of interesting resources. However, there is less reflection of the natural world in the younger children's area.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen further the good support for children to communicate by using a wider range of techniques
- improve the outdoor area for the younger children so they can explore the natural world more.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held meetings with the provider and manager, and completed a joint observation with the manager. She spoke to some staff and observed activities in the play rooms and the outside play areas.
- The inspector looked at some children's records, including their learning assessments, and spoke to some key persons.
- The inspector spoke to some parents during the inspection and took account of parents' views.
- The inspector checked evidence of safeguarding practices, staff recruitment, ongoing professional development and self-evaluation processes.
- This inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process.

Inspector

Sue Taylor

Inspection findings

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

Children's key persons know them very well and regularly assess their achievements to plan the next steps in their learning. Staff clearly display the most important step so any staff member in the room is able to support children effectively. Managers monitor how well groups of children progress. For example, they ensure there are no gaps between how well boys and girls learn. An emphasis on mathematics and early writing development helps all children make progress. Staff engage with parents and regularly inform them about the progress their children make. They encourage learning at home, which strengthens consistency in children's learning. Staff support children with additional needs well. They work in partnerships with other professionals to devise individual plans to help ensure all children make steady progress.

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

Recent changes in how staff organise groups of children has greatly improved children's behaviour. Children have fun learning through play as they engage with staff and other children. Staff make effective use of the resources to interest children. For example, children learnt about mixing colours and practised letter writing as they moved paint around under a plastic film on a table. They proudly shared that they knew that blue and red made purple. Children's health benefits from using the outside play area. The play equipment provides some physical challenges, supervised by staff. The older children benefit from larger equipment with some additional challenge.

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

Thorough recruitment processes and comprehensive inductions for staff help ensure staff suitability. The management acts promptly to follow up any concerns about staff's conduct. They make regular checks in the day to ensure they meet adult to child ratios. The management provides staff with regular supervision meetings. They encourage staff to attend training courses to improve their practices. Management supports staff who want to gain a qualification as it helps them understand more about how children learn. The majority of the staff team have relevant first-aid training to deal with accidents. There is a suitable recording system in place to ensure staff inform parents. The effective evaluation of the nursery is ongoing and takes account of views from parents, staff and children. The development plans continue to improve children's experiences. There is effective information sharing with parents so they are very aware of the nursery practices. For example, the management holds parent meetings to discuss children's progress and important events, such as staffing issues.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY481001
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1017409
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	63
Number of children on roll	119
Name of provider	A Step Ahead Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07980586622

A Step Ahead at Lancing registered in 2014 and is one of six privately owned nurseries. It is situated alongside the Lancing Children and Family Centre, Lancing, West Sussex. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm all year around, except bank holidays. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. There are 17 members of staff, including the cook and three staff with Early Years Professional Status or Early Years Teacher Status. There are nine staff who have relevant level 3 qualifications and one with a level 5 qualification.

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