

First Steps Nursery

West End Road, Maxey, PETERBOROUGH, PE6 9HA



Inspection date

17 September 2015

Previous inspection date

16 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Teaching is consistently good throughout the nursery. Staff understand children well and are knowledgeable about how to plan children's learning through purposeful play. Consequently, children enjoy the wide variety of activities and support offered by staff.
- Babies' and toddlers' physical skills are promoted well. Staff provide plenty of space for them to safely take their first steps and enjoy activities, such as throwing balls and using small bikes. Staff provide comfortable and restful environments where children and babies can sleep peacefully and refresh their energy.
- Staff recognise how the natural environment surrounding the nursery can enhance children's experiences. They take every opportunity to plan trips to explore the local community. This teaches children about the natural world and promotes their good health as they exercise in the fresh air.
- Self-evaluation is good. Managers involve staff, parents and children in the reflective process. Consequently, action plans are firmly targeted on improving the nursery for all children.
- Staff are knowledgeable about how to keep children safe. They know who to report concerns to and are vigilant of children's safety at all times. As a result, children can play and learn without fear of harm.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The resources and the layout of the 'Bumble Bee' room is occasionally disorganised and the use of the garden is not maximised. This means children cannot always select certain activities and the space inside is sometimes cramped.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of the space available for children in the 'Bumble Bee' group, giving them room to play and independently choose their own toys, both inside and outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery's deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery's deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The leadership team has a good understanding of their responsibilities. Monitoring of children's progress is effective in ensuring children have the support they need to progress well. Managers are also proactive in monitoring staff performance. This ensures the standard of teaching is consistent and helps staff to develop their own practice and skills. Training courses are attended whenever possible and this has particularly enhanced teaching to improve younger children's speech, listening and language skills. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff undergo background checks and are required to undertake an induction as part of the recruitment procedure. Consequently, only the best candidates are employed. Managers have sought and developed strong partnerships with other providers and schools, which is beneficial as children move from one to the other. Parents speak highly of the nursery and are fully informed of children's progress. They appreciate how staff build strong bonds with individual children and the impact that this has on children's confidence and sense of well-being.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are kept busy at nursery. They find plenty of activities and toys to interest them, which supports their development well across all seven areas of learning. Children in the main building have the benefit of a stimulating environment, both inside and outside. Resources are well organised. This supports them to be independent in choosing which resources they want to play with. However, this is not the case for children in the 'Bumble Bee' room. The area is sometimes cluttered in places and children are not able to select resources, such as jigsaw puzzles, for themselves. Furthermore, the use of the garden is not always maximised, preventing younger children from taking their learning into a different and more spacious environment. Staff support children well, they join in with children's play and extend their learning whenever possible.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Babies settle quickly in the setting. They are well supported by knowledgeable staff and are cared for in a homely and nurturing environment. Key staff throughout the nursery have strong bonds with children. This is evident as children seek them out and involve them in their games. Behaviour is good. Staff offer consistent messages about sharing, taking turns and good manners, which contribute well to children's ability to make friends and play happily together. Children enjoy healthy foods at mealtimes and take part in sociable conversations with friends and staff.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in the nursery. They are interested in learning, are becoming independent and are able to concentrate well on their chosen activities. Older children are keen to demonstrate their literacy skills and are preparing well for their eventual move to school. They recognise familiar letters in their names and know the sounds they represent.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY423564
Local authority	Peterborough
Inspection number	852423
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	First Steps Nursery (Maxey) Limited
Date of previous inspection	16 November 2011
Telephone number	01778 341522

First Steps Nursery was registered in 2011. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, 13 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, except for the week between Christmas and New Year. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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