

Little Footsteps Nursery

30 Columbus Ravine, SCARBOROUGH, North Yorkshire, YO12 7JT



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

23 September 2015

12 April 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children are very active learners and staff provide them with high levels of challenge in their learning. Staff talk to children about everyday risks in the environment and how these can be minimised. As a result, children have an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves safe.
- Staff provide excellent environments which enthuse children, both indoors and outside. Staff work together exceedingly well and have very high expectations of what children can achieve.
- The quality of teaching is consistently of a very high standard. Staff use their detailed observations of children's play and activities to fully understand their learning needs and interests. As a result, all children make good and better progress and are very well prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- Effective systems are in place so that information about the progress children are making in the nursery and at home is regularly shared.
- Leaders and managers work together extremely well and have a very good understanding of the statutory and other government requirements. They evaluate practice and gather ideas from the wider staff team to set clear targets for improvement.
- Staff expertly use every opportunity to teach children key skills and fully develop their learning. Children are inquisitive and ask lots of questions about the world they live in. Staff provide children with answers and pose further questions to stimulate their thinking even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- raise the overall quality of teaching even higher, by providing the stronger or most experienced staff with more opportunities to support others to improve, so that children continue to make rapid progress in their learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out two joint observations with the early years professional.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and the early years professional, and looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's development plan and documents relating to staff suitability, qualifications and training.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Jill Roberts

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Staff are well qualified and highly motivated in their roles. They are lead and managed very well by a strong leadership team who strive to offer the best care and education for children. Staff have a shared understanding of their responsibility for protecting children and promoting their welfare. As a result, safeguarding is effective. The management team provide good support to staff to improve their knowledge, understanding and skills. However, staff development does not offer enough opportunities for stronger or more experienced staff to support others to raise the overall quality of teaching even higher. Staff work hard to engage all parents in their children's learning. Parents enjoy looking at photographs and videos of activities and experiences that children have been engaged in. The nursery works well in partnership with others, including local providers. They meet regularly and network effectively sharing good practice. The provider is keen to share the setting's high-quality Forest School activities. She has facilitated trips for other practitioners sharing this outstanding practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children enjoy rich, stimulating and varied experiences in the nursery. Staff plan activities linked directly to children's interests and current stage of development. Children are highly motivated and eager to learn. Children show perseverance as staff support their learning and encourage them to think. Staff ask children good quality questions as they play and explore, which extends children's thinking. Staff listen carefully to what children are telling them so that they know how best to support them to achieve their goals. Staff use everyday opportunities to teach children and extend their learning, particularly in literacy and mathematics. Children talk about and compare sizes of objects that they find. Children sing songs and rhymes anticipating what comes next. Children capably read signs and labels in the environment and are able to give meaning to the marks that they make.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Routines and care practices are very well established and implemented extremely well. Staff have exceptionally high expectations of what children can achieve. Children know exactly what is expected of them and, as a result, their behaviour is exemplary. Adults give children lots of specific praise and encouragement and fully support their independence. This significantly contributes to children's sense of security and their motivation to learn. Staff have created a nurturing and secure environment where all children are warmly welcomed and are extremely well supported. The setting tailors the settling-in process to suit children's individual needs, which effectively promotes their well-being. Children have first-rate opportunities to be physically active and take part in a wide range of outdoor activities, which provide risk and challenge.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All groups of children, including children for whom the nursery receives additional funding, make extremely good progress in their learning. Children's learning is closely monitored and any gaps are swiftly identified and action is taken to bring about improvement. All children acquire the skills they need for their next stage in learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY436525
Local authority	North Yorkshire
Inspection number	853767
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	101
Name of provider	Little Footsteps Limited
Date of previous inspection	12 April 2012
Telephone number	01723360719

Little Footsteps Nursery was registered in 2011. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6, including two with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens all year round from Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and Christmas. Sessions are from 7.45am until 5.45pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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