

First Steps Day Nursery

115 Pound Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH15 3RS



Inspection date

29 October 2015

Previous inspection date

26 April 2010

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

- The quality of teaching throughout the nursery is consistently good. Staff work well in partnership with parents to identify children's starting points, and staff use their observations to effectively monitor children's ongoing progress. Assessments are accurate and are used successfully to plan for children's individual next steps.
- Staff get to know the children extremely well. Effective settling-in routines help children to establish secure bonds with the caring staff. This supports children's emotional and physical well-being successfully.
- Partnerships with parents, other providers and professionals are strong. Good communication and sharing of information helps to support children, including those who have special educational needs and those who are learning English as an additional language.
- Management monitors the quality of teaching and the impact on children's learning well. Staff use their ongoing training to improve children's communication and language. Monitoring of staff development is effective through supervision meetings, peer observations and yearly appraisals.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities during activities to ensure children can think about and solve problems for themselves.
- Some resources are not used effectively to encourage children's interest in books or to develop their early literacy skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that activities challenge children's thinking and ability to express and share their ideas more fully
- review the organisation of the book resources to ensure children's enjoyment of books and learning in literacy are extended further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector jointly observed two activities with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including children's learning records, the setting's self-evaluation and staff suitability checks.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and considered their views.

Inspector

Michelle Tuck

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management and staff have a thorough understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implement them effectively. Safeguarding is effective. Management and staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities to keep children safe. They have a good understanding of the reporting procedure if they had any concerns about a child's welfare. There are robust recruitment, vetting and induction procedures to ensure staff suitability. The staff and management have worked well together to address the recommendations raised at the last inspection. They constantly evaluate their practice, include the views of parents and children, and implement changes to guide improvement. For example, the arrival system has changed because of parental feedback. Staff from each child's base room now greet the family when they arrive, which has strengthened partnerships with parents further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy the range of activities and learning experiences on offer at the nursery. Young babies enjoy using their senses as they explore their environment. They scoop and pour cereal from one container to another, exploring its texture and smell. Children write and make marks for different purposes; they thoroughly enjoyed singing and joined in with the actions enthusiastically. Children's communication and language skills increase and their vocabulary widens. This prepares them well for the next stage in their learning and their move on to school. To support children's mathematical learning staff encourage children to count in different ways, such as when playing a number-based memory game.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop good social skills. They play well with one another, take turns, and share easily. They know the setting's golden rules and show respect for one another and the environment. The effective key-person system helps children to feel secure. Staff meet children's care needs well, for example, young babies snuggle into a familiar adult as they drink milk from their bottle. Staff act as good role models and boost children's confidence through praise and encouragement. Children's behaviour is very good. Staff teach the children effectively about healthy lifestyles. Children understand the importance of good hygiene routines, such as hand washing before meals and eating healthy foods and snacks. Children enjoy being active as they run, climb and ride on toys in the outside area.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are very happy, confident and settled. All children make good progress in their learning relative to their starting points. They learn necessary number, communication and social skills, which builds their independence and preparation for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY405332
Local authority	Poole
Inspection number	831381
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	92
Number of children on roll	144
Name of provider	First Steps Childcare Services Ltd
Date of previous inspection	26 April 2010
Telephone number	01202675009

First Steps Day Nursery registered at the current location in 2010. The nursery is in converted church premises in Oakdale, on the outskirts of Poole, Dorset. The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday all year round, except bank holidays and Christmas. The nursery offers a holiday club for older children. The nursery has funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 17 members of staff. The manager has Early Years Professional Status, two staff are qualified to level 5, nine staff are qualified to level 3 and one member of staff holds a qualification at level 2.

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