

First Steps Nursery Ltd

175 Buxton Road, Furness Vale, HIGH PEAK, Derbyshire, SK23 7PZ



Inspection date

28 October 2015

Previous inspection date

27 July 2010

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

- Managers and staff give high priority to safeguarding children. They have a good knowledge of the signs of abuse and know how to report any concerns about a child in their care to the appropriate agencies. Staff provide a safe environment and they supervise children well.
- The quality of teaching is good. The well-qualified staff know how children learn and provide challenging and exciting activities, which engage and motivate children. This has a positive impact on children's learning opportunities. All children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Managers support staff to attend a variety of training courses. Staff use the skills gained to enhance children's enjoyment in the nursery and improve their learning outcomes.
- Support for disabled children and those who have special educational needs is a strength of the nursery.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not always given enough time to develop their own ideas as, occasionally, staff over-direct activities.
- Opportunities to further develop children's understanding and appreciation of other traditions and cultural similarities and differences in the wider community are not fully promoted.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the time given to children to help them develop their own ideas independently
- help children develop an even greater understanding of the cultural diversity which exists in the wider community.

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 manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and checked evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Karen Laycock

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Staff use their qualifications, knowledge and experience to enhance the service they provide. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff know who to report any concerns about a child to. Staff receive good support for their professional development through regular reviews and appraisals. Staff review and evaluate activities to make ongoing improvements so that children continue to make good progress. The manager includes the views of parents, children and staff in her self-evaluation process, and welcomes their ideas and suggestions. This shared approach enables the enthusiastic team to continually improve the nursery to enhance children's learning and development. Staff have established good partnerships with parents to enable frequent sharing of information. They gather precise information about what children already know and can do when they first start. This enables them to plan very precisely for children's needs right from the outset. All children develop the skills they need for future learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use observations and assessment to plan for children's next steps in their learning. Parents are regularly informed about the progress their children have made in the nursery. Staff provide ideas to parents about how they can continue children's learning at home. Babies and children arrive at the nursery eager to play and explore. Staff develop children's communication skills very well as they encourage many meaningful conversations during play and routines. Children's mathematical development is promoted. Staff provide older children with opportunities to learn about size and shape and to make comparisons. Younger children practise counting. Staff know what each child's next stage in learning is and skilfully introduce this into their play. All children make good progress in their learning and development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children undoubtedly enjoy their time in this welcoming and inclusive nursery. Staff are good role models as they demonstrate to the children how to share and take turns. Children behave well. Staff teach children to be kind and respect one another. Children know why they need to wash their hands before eating and after handling the nursery pets. Children eat healthy snacks and meals. They enjoy and learn about the need for daily exercise and fresh air, whatever the weather. Staff praise children's achievements and attempts. This helps children to feel confident in their abilities. Children are confident to speak to others about their interests, experiences and thoughts. Children show their growing independence as they put on their wellington boots to go outdoors. Transitions between rooms and on to formal education are successful as the nursery has very effective procedures in place to support children and their families.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their initial starting points. They are confident, active learners who are keen to join in activities and lead their own play. Children are well prepared for their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY392081
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	849853
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	34
Name of provider	First Steps Nursery (New Mills) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	27 July 2010
Telephone number	01663746632

The nursery was registered in 2010. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 to level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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