

First Step Pre School

Christ The King School, Easton Hill Road, Thornbury, South Glos, BS35 1AX



Inspection date	10 November 2015
Previous inspection date	10 June 2009

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

- Staff take time to listen to children and show how much they value their achievements, which helps to build their self-esteem highly effectively.
- The quality of teaching is excellent. Staff use their qualifications, experiences and training exceptionally well to ensure consistently high standards of teaching.
- Staff use assessment arrangements exceptionally well to identify children's next steps for learning and to plan activities tailored to meet their needs and current interests. Staff track children's progress effectively and take prompt action to liaise with parents and other professionals. Staff ensure children receive the help they need and use funding exceptionally well to support them.
- Comprehensive and highly reflective self-evaluation has led to accurate action plans to bring about improvement and maintain exemplary standards in children's care, learning and development.
- Staff prepare children very well for their next steps in learning and their eventual move to school. Children are confident learners who have excellent listening and independence skills.
- Staff have exceptional knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. They give children's safety, health and well-being a high priority.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's understanding of healthy lifestyles even further, particularly during physical activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing inside and outside.
- The inspector spoke with the chairperson, parents, children and staff at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the leader.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including the written views of parents, the pre-school's self-evaluation and children's progress records.
- The inspector spoke with staff about their understanding of safeguarding practice and observed daily procedures.

Inspector

Rachael Williams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have meticulous knowledge of how to protect children from the risk of harm. There are extremely robust recruitment and induction procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. The manager reviews staff practice and monitors the quality of teaching and children's progress exceptionally well. There is a very positive attitude towards professional development. Management and staff make excellent use of training to support the development of the pre-school, such as to extend children's learning outdoors. Partnerships at all levels are extremely good. Staff exchange information in a variety of ways with parents. For example, they provide different opportunities for them to observe what their children can do and seek guidance on supporting learning further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff support children's communication and language skills exceptionally well. Children listen carefully to explanations and follow instructions very well, for example during physical activities. Staff talk to children about their movements, helping to build their vocabulary extremely well so they can describe the actions they use. Staff are excellent at consolidating children's learning. For example, children remind themselves and others of the rules to the traffic light game and play successfully. Staff are excellent at following children's ideas. When children decided to use the den as a rocket staff were excellent at encouraging children to think about what materials they may need to change it. Children soon decided to use paper plates for the control buttons. Staff consistently praised children for their inventive ideas and ability to solve problems.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Older children are very respectful of others and take turns competently. For example, when they visited the school hall they decided on the rules they needed to follow, such as tiptoeing quietly past the classrooms. Children are extremely confident with routines and expectations because staff use highly effective methods to help all children understand them. Children are very aware of their own needs and remove their jumpers when they are hot. Overall, children develop an excellent awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Although, staff occasionally miss opportunities to extend this even further during some physical activities. Staff know the children extremely well and children form strong attachments to them. Staff provide consistent reassurance, individual support and well-chosen resources to help meet children's needs exceptionally well.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their starting points when they first attend. Staff prepare children extremely well for their next stage for learning. Children confidently make decisions for themselves and are highly motivated learners.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY344359
Local authority	South Gloucestershire
Inspection number	827532
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	36
Name of provider	First Step Pre School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2009
Telephone number	01454 858580

First Step Pre-School Ltd opened in 1970 and in 2007 re-registered as a limited company. It operates from the grounds of Christ the King School in Thornbury, South Gloucestershire. The pre-school opens for five days a week during school term time. Pre-school sessions are Monday to Friday from 9am until 12pm with a lunch club until 12:45pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Afternoon sessions are from 12:45pm until 3:15pm Monday to Thursday. The committee employs five members of staff; two of whom have early years qualifications at level 4, two at level 3 and one at level 2. The pre-school is in receipt of funding for early education to support children aged two, three and four years.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

