

First Steps Pre-School

Church of Christ the King, Beaumont Way, LEICESTER, LE4 1DS



Inspection date	9 December 2015
Previous inspection date	9 December 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Children make good progress. There are well-planned, interesting activities and learning opportunities available. Resources are of good quality, easily accessible and the rooms are thoughtfully planned for each age group. Children are challenged and stimulated very well and staff ensure that children are continually busy and engaged in their learning.
- Staff know children very well through their observations and from information obtained from parents. Staff assess children's progress effectively and close any gaps in their learning quickly. They meet children's individual needs and work very effectively together to support the next steps in their learning. Children are very well prepared for the next stage in their learning and for school.
- There are very good relationships between staff and children in a happy, caring and welcoming environment. Staff work closely with parents so that children receive consistency of care. Children's behaviour is very good and staff set clear boundaries. Extremely well-planned settling-in procedures are tailored to individual children's needs so they are secure.
- The well-motivated staff work as a strong team to monitor and evaluate the provision very effectively. There is a very strong drive for continuous improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff's professional development is not yet highly focused to raise the quality of teaching to an outstanding level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop a more focused vision for ongoing professional development that increases the potential to deliver the highest-quality provision.

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

Inspector

Catherine Sharkey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff understand and implement detailed and comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures. Children are very well protected and their safety is given high priority. Since the last inspection, the managers and staff have made great improvements to the way they plan activities and monitor children's progress. The quality of teaching has improved and the management team has worked closely with staff to bring about this improvement. There are strong links with other local early years providers with whom staff share ideas and best practice on a regular basis. Staff provide comprehensive information for parents about the pre-school's policies and procedures. Parents' views are welcomed and acted upon.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Skilful questioning by staff provides effective challenges for children who learn how to solve practical problems in their play. Children choose from a wide range of exciting activities in each room. Staff ensure there is a balance of child-led and adult-led activities, which cover all areas of learning. Two-year-old children explore the textures of play dough, fluffy pom-poms and shiny tinsel. They are encouraged to talk about their experiences of Christmas and what they might like to have as presents. They play imaginatively in the construction site role-play area, where they use the tools and build with realistic bricks. Children choose items from a basket to prompt their choices of songs and staff encourage them to join in and copy the actions. Three-year-old children pretend to write cards and Christmas lists to post in their Christmas post box. Staff develop children's language skills well and nurture their love of books and stories. Children find different shapes and match them to the shapes on a card. Staff take many opportunities to help children to count and use simple addition. As more children arrive in the morning, they count again and tell staff how many children there are now.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The caring staff help children to feel emotionally secure. Staff praise children frequently and value their opinions. Children gain confidence and positive self-esteem through staff encouragement to try new activities to extend their thinking and understanding. Children are active outdoors each day. They develop their physical skills well through the use of a range of resources at the pre-school. Children learn about a range of other cultures and festivals. Their home cultures are valued and celebrated. There are good links with the schools children move on to and they are well prepared for the move to their new settings.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who receive funded education, make good progress from their starting points. Children learn to be independent in readiness for school and are taught to share and take turns. They develop early literacy and mathematical skills in preparation for future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY367607
Local authority	Leicester City
Inspection number	1010737
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	37
Name of provider	Katherine Clare Eccles
Date of previous inspection	9 December 2014
Telephone number	07834 705 621

First Steps Pre-School was registered in 2005. The pre-school employs eight members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at levels 2 to 5. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, with the exception of bank holidays and two weeks at Christmas. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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