

First Steps pre-school and Next Steps out of School Club

1 Pond Road, Blackheath, London, SE3 9JL



Inspection date

2 February 2016

Previous inspection date

10 October 2011

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

- The planning and assessment methods are effective. Staff plan good opportunities for the children to learn, indoors and outdoors. The children make good progress and are prepared well for school.
- The staff provide a good range of interesting resources for children to explore, which motivates the children to learn.
- The key-person system works well and staff have good relationships with the children. The children are secure and confident. They behave well and have their physical needs met effectively by the staff.
- The owner/manager ensures that there are effective partnerships with parents. Staff share information with parents on their children's progress and involve parents in their children's learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not succeed in engaging all children fully in activities, particularly when children are together in one group.
- Staff do not always seize chances to build on children's learning when children play independently.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- check that staff always take individual children's needs fully into account, especially during adult-led activities
- take every opportunity to extend children's learning fully while they play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and learning during activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector met with staff to discuss their role in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and sampled documents, including children's journals and tracking forms.
- The inspector met with some parents to obtain their views on the provision.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector met with the manager and looked at relevant documents, which included the suitability checks on staff working with children and safeguarding procedures.

Inspector

Cynthia David

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

There is an effective performance management system. The owner/manager identifies areas for improvement in the nursery's service. She makes sure that staff attend some appropriate training to improve their teaching practice. Safeguarding is effective. Through training, staff have good knowledge and understanding of how to report welfare concerns in order to keep children safe. The manager has met the recommendations from the last inspection; parents are now involved in their children's learning, and children have opportunities to develop their independent skills. The recruitment process is effective, and the owner/manager ensures that staff have suitable experience and qualifications for their roles.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide a wide range of stimulating activities for children, which they enjoy exploring and experimenting with. Children have good opportunities for their physical development; for example, they enjoy digging outside. They are curious when they find worms. They look at these and discuss them with staff, whose questions prompt the children to think. For example, children discuss the worms' length. Staff know the children well, particularly those for whom they take special responsibility. They make regular observations to understand the children's progress and then plan suitable experiences to take their learning forward. Children have good relationships with staff and these enable children to be happy to play and learn.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The staff provide a warm and friendly environment. Staff are good role models to the children. Children learn how to take turns and to share with the other children during the activities. They respond well to the praise and encouragement given by staff. They develop their self-esteem and are eager to learn. Children learn about healthy lifestyles effectively. They learn about eating healthily and make choices in the fruit they will eat at snack times. The children develop their personal skills well; for example, when going into the garden they put on their coats.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They gain key skills ready for their next stage of learning and for school. For example, children learn how to get on with others, and older children learn to listen carefully and gain early counting skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY101370
Local authority	Greenwich
Inspection number	826294
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Carrol Leonora Powell
Date of previous inspection	10 October 2011
Telephone number	0208 852 1233

First Steps Pre-School registered in 1994. It is located in Blackheath in the London Borough of Greenwich. The pre-school opens each weekday for 39 weeks annually during school terms. Opening hours are from 9.30am to 3pm. There are seven members of staff including the registered provider. Of these, one holds Qualified Teacher Status, one has an early years degree and the other five staff hold relevant qualifications to level 3.

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