

First Steps Moorlands Children's Centre

Moorfields Road, Bath, BA2 2DQ



Inspection date	10 March 2016
Previous inspection date	19 October 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 skilfully interact with children to extend and challenge their learning. Children are confident, motivated and engaged during their play and activities. They make good progress from their initial starting points.
- Managers and staff are good role models. Children's behaviour is very good and they are encouraged to solve problems and manage conflict for themselves. Children are tolerant, make friends, build relationships and learn how to share and take turns.
- Parents are fully informed about their children's learning achievements and how these can be extended at home. Parents compliment staff on the care and learning provided and they comment on how happy their children are to attend.
- The managers have made significant improvements since the last inspection. For example, they have addressed all actions and recommendations and diligently carry out effective checks to ensure all potential hazards and risks to children are identified and removed. Detailed action plans and evaluations support ongoing improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Managers and staff do not always fully support children to gain a better understanding of mathematical language and concepts during play and activities.
- On occasion, managers and staff are over eager to support children with self-care tasks that they could do for themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to further develop their understanding of mathematical concepts and mathematical language
- build on the daily opportunities that enable children to develop their own independence and self-help skills.

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 sampled a range of documentation, including records of staff suitability checks, attendance records, the self-assessment information, children's observation, assessment and planning records, and documentation linked to managing children's progress.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and spoke with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Julie Swann

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff have a good knowledge of procedures to follow if they have any concerns about the welfare of a child. Furthermore, recruitment procedures are robust. Managers are committed to improving outcomes for children. For example, they monitor individual and groups of children to check that they are making progress. All children, including those who have special educational needs, receive the support they need so that any gaps in their learning are closing. The majority of staff are well qualified and have an established programme of professional development in place. For example, they have regular meetings with managers, observe each other's practice and identify, attend and share training to help raise the quality of their teaching. Managers work closely with other settings children attend to help provide continuity in care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn and develop. For example, they routinely observe and assess children's progress. They use this information to help plan activities that are tailored to children's individual interests and needs. Staff support children's communication and language skills well. For example, they are skilled at asking age-appropriate questions to challenge children's thinking and extend their vocabulary. Children particularly enjoy imaginative play. Staff promote children's understanding of the world around them. For example, when children found a frog outdoors, staff used this opportunity to help develop their understanding of life cycles and where animals live.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff develop warm and close relationships with children, who are happy, self-confident and explore their surroundings. Staff are vigilant about arrival and collection procedures, and very good security precautions contribute towards children's safety and welfare. Staff care for children well; for example, they monitor sleeping babies closely, and children clearly feel emotionally secure with their key person. Staff teach children the importance of a healthy lifestyle. For example, children freely access the outdoor area for the majority of each session and delight in testing out their physical skills on the wide variety of equipment. Staff help children to understand equality and diversity in society and teach them to respect and celebrate other people's similarities and differences.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in readiness for the next stage in their learning and school. For example, babies maintain their interest as they enjoy dancing, singing and splashing in water. Older children re-tell stories, sing with gusto, and recognise the sounds that letters make. Some children know how to read and write their own name.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY287532
Local authority	Bath & NE Somerset
Inspection number	1031295
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	107
Name of provider	First Steps (Bath)
Date of previous inspection	19 October 2015
Telephone number	01225 317 123

First Steps Moorlands Children's Centre registered in 2004. It operates from within the grounds of Moorlands School Federation, Bath. The centre is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays, between Christmas and New Year, and three in-service training days. A team of 13 childcare staff are employed; of these, 12 are qualified to level 3 or above in early years.

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