

St Francis Preschool

Newton Ferrers Church of England Primary School, Newton Ferrers, Dillons the Green, Newton Ferrers Plymouth, Devon, PL8 1AS



Inspection date	13 June 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 quality of teaching is strong. Staff have a good understanding of how children learn, and plan challenging activities to meet children's individual needs and interests.
- The manager and staff complete regular assessments of children's achievements to closely monitor their progress and quickly identify where additional support may be required. Children make good progress.
- The manager and staff provide stimulating and well-resourced indoor and outdoor learning environments, which help children to be motivated and interested in their self-chosen play.
- Children develop strong attachments with the close and caring staff team. They value and respect those around them and form good relationships with their friends.
- The manager is committed to ensuring continuous improvement through effective self-evaluation. For example, she is currently developing the literacy programme by planning more adult-led activities, to extend children's early reading skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Information sharing is not as successful as it could be to ensure all parents have more detailed information about children's development, to extend children's learning further at home.
- Changeover times and routine activities, such as snack time, between activities and when preparing to go outside, are not always organised effectively. Many children spend too long waiting and lose focus during these times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with all parents to extend children's learning opportunities at home and promote consistency in their development
- review and improve the organisation of routines so that these more effectively support all children's needs as they move between tasks and activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's self-chosen play, including within the reception classroom, and routine activities.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an adult-led activity with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of staff, children and parents, through discussion and written feedback.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team at an appropriate time during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's learning records, evidence of staff's qualifications and training, and policies and procedures.

Inspector

Sarah Madge

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Safeguarding is effective. The manager monitors children's development meticulously. She quickly identifies any gaps in learning and implements plans to provide additional support. For instance, she is currently increasing staff's focus on numbers to extend children's mathematical development. The manager provides good support and coaching to staff, to maintain the strong quality of teaching. For example, staff have regular individual and team meetings, and attend a variety of training courses. Staff make good use of these to build on their skills, such as learning new ways to promote children's good health through adult-led physical activities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff skilfully extend children's learning during free play, such as by setting up a ramp for children who are playing with toy cars. Children excitedly investigate what happens when they push two cars down at the same time and delight in the crash that follows, enthusiastically repeating this several times. Staff help children become familiar with number names and their order, to help them learn to count. For example, they encourage children to count the number of their friends who are lining up to go outside, to make sure all children are present. Staff promote children's physical skills well. For instance, they provide resources that offer interesting and creative challenges, such as threading pipe cleaners into small holes in wooden frames.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The manager and staff support children's personal, social and emotional development very well. Generally, they consider children's individual needs well when planning daily routines, such as offering the whole group a snack to provide opportunities for new children to make friends. Children are happy and settled, and show a strong sense of belonging as they take responsibility for small tasks. For instance, older children competently manage to put on their own coat and pour themselves drinks at snack time. Staff provide strong support for children who are due to start school, and these children show high levels of confidence and enthusiasm for the next stage in their learning.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are motivated, active and eager to learn. They enjoy frequent and good-quality interactions with staff. Children are keen to share their ideas. They practise their early writing skills, such as drawing 'plans' to build a lighthouse from crates and learning how to write their name with staff. These activities contribute to children's communication, language and literacy development and prepare them well for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY476937
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	985080
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	32
Name of registered person	First Beginnings Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533617
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07746 953 901

St Francis Preschool registered in 2014 on the site of Newton Ferrers County Primary School, near Plymouth in Devon. It is open Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 3pm during term time only. It receives early years funding for children aged two, three and four years old. There are seven members of staff who work directly with children, four of whom hold relevant early years qualifications. The pre-school employs an administrator.

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