

First Little Steps

King Georges Playing Field, Tudor Drive, Morden, SM4 4PN



Inspection date

2 November 2016

Previous inspection date

23 November 2012

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

- Staff have a good understanding of children's developmental needs. They observe, assess and plan accurately for their learning. Staff consider information provided by parents and other professionals involved in children's care and learning.
- Staff develop strong relationships with parents. They help parents to continue their children's learning at home. For example, staff provide books for parents to read to their children to support their early literacy skills.
- The manager monitors individual and groups of children's progress. She helps staff to quickly close any identified gaps in children's learning and help them catch up. Children make good progress from their starting points, including children who have special educational needs.
- Children have good opportunities to learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, they participate in activities that enhance their awareness of food that is good for their bodies. They play outside daily and have a positive attitude to exercise.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to develop children's understanding of the natural world around them. For example, they do not encourage children to observe the changes of the seasons and the elements, such as the effect of the wind.
- Sometimes, staff do things for children that they can do for themselves. For example, staff put on children's hats, coats and gloves for them, limiting their independent skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- create more opportunities to help extend children's understanding of the natural world
- encourage children to manage more tasks by themselves to build on their independence skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector talked with staff, children and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, and checked evidence of the suitability checks and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Marvet Gayle

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager has a strong knowledge of the safeguarding procedures. She ensures all staff understand the signs that indicate a child's welfare may be at risk. The manager ensures staff are vigilant to help protect children's safety and welfare. She uses rigorous recruitment procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. She reflects on and evaluates the provision to make improvements, taking careful account of the views of staff, parents and children. For example, following feedback from parents, the manager and staff have improved the learning environment for children who prefer to learn outside. The manager supports staff's professional development. For example, she encourages them to gain higher qualifications. The qualified staff use their new knowledge to improve outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff skilfully extend children's thinking and speaking skills. For instance, they use carefully worded questions to encourage children to develop their thoughts as they solve problems and join in discussions. Staff support children to concentrate and focus very well. For example, they encourage children to take part in group time, and help them to listen and express their ideas. Staff teach children to take some risk and develop their physical skills. For instance, they encourage older children to try to climb a tree, while the younger children work out how to use a spade to build a sandcastle. Staff engage children in early reading. For example, staff encourage children to join in stories enthusiastically and they repeat words and repetitive phrases excitedly.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form very close bonds with their key person and seek them out when they need help or reassurance. Staff celebrate children's achievements and efforts. They value children's work and share their success with their parents. Staff teach children to listen and take turns. For example, staff remind children to be polite and respectful of staff and each other. Staff help children to learn about people's similarities and differences, and to be thoughtful and respectful of others. For example, children learn about each other's cultural festivals, and they say 'excuse me' when someone is in their way.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good foundations for their future learning. They are interested in early writing. For example, older children learn to write their name and younger children make marks in the sand. Children develop good early mathematical skills. For instance, they competently count, and they know the value of numbers one to five. All children are eager to learn and are very confident in their abilities. They communicate effectively and behave very well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY426071
Local authority	Merton
Inspection number	1058998
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 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Michelle Coker-Hounslow
Registered person unique reference number	RP513787
Date of previous inspection	23 November 2012
Telephone number	02083307851

First Little Steps nursery registered in 2011. The nursery is privately owned and operates from the upstairs maisonette of the pavilion that is situated within King Georges Fields, in Morden. The nursery opens each weekday from 8am to 6pm. There are nine staff; six members of staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and three staff hold a qualification at level 2. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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