

Footsteps Day Nursery & Preschool



Chalfont St. Peter Football Club, Mill Meadow, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St. Peter,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 9QX

Inspection date 16 February 2017
Previous inspection date 8 May 2013

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

- Leaders manage efficiently. They support staff well and identify relevant training, for example, to improve staff's teaching skills, to help them meet the needs of the children.
- Leaders consider the suggestions of parents and staff, which contribute to the nursery's self-evaluation. They make changes which help children to prosper in their learning.
- Leaders work effectively with other professionals to ensure children who require additional help progress. They cater for all children's needs and prepare children well for their next stage of development. All children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff use their knowledge of the children effectively to support the next steps in their learning. They plan challenging activities based on the children's interests and needs.
- Leaders provide children with a key person from the outset. They encourage parents and staff to work effectively together to support children's well-being. Positive relationships between key persons, parents and children help children to settle well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not encourage children to manage some task themselves. For example, children cannot easily access the resources to build on their independent learning.
- Staff do not consistently support children who prefer to learn outdoors to extend their early reading skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- create opportunities for children to be more independent in their learning
- improve the opportunities for children who prefer to learn outdoors to build on their early reading skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled documents, including the setting's self-evaluation, fire and accident information, risk assessments, safeguarding procedures, children's assessments and planning.
- The inspector spoke to parents to evaluate how staff support their children's needs.
- The inspector toured the premises and spoke to children and staff.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff, children and parents.
- The inspector conducted joint observations with the manager and deputy manager and evaluated teaching and learning.

Inspector

Jameel Hassan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders have a good understanding of children's development. They track and monitor children's learning to ensure staff support children towards their next steps and help close any gaps in learning. Safeguarding is effective. Leaders use rigorous recruitment procedures when employing staff to help make sure they are suitable to work with children. They carry out regular risk assessments, including for fire safety, to ensure the premises are safe and record accidents as required. Leaders ensure staff know what action to take should they have any concerns about a child to protect their welfare. The manager meets with staff to talk about and support their practice. She encourages professional development. For example, training has helped staff to accurately assess and record each child's progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff work closely with parents to establish children's starting points when they first attend. For example, parents share what they know about their children's development and interests and staff encourage children to voice what they want to learn. Staff use this information to plan a good range of learning experiences. They teach children about the wider world, such as the animals that live in and under the sea. Staff help children to develop their small muscles and to use tools for a purpose. They encourage children to listen and follow instructions, and teach them to use scissors and glue sticks. Staff help children to distinguish between different sounds to develop their speech, such as through songs and rhymes.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Key persons hold regular meetings with parents to involve them in their children's care and learning. They share children's progress and support parents to extend children's learning at home, such as sharing books to build on their vocabulary. Staff provide a safe and welcoming environment. Young children move freely about their room to explore. Staff develop older children's confidence and self-esteem well. For example, they offer praise and encouragement to help children take risks in their play safely. Staff are good role models for children. They teach children to share, take turns and respect each other.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs, make good progress from their starting points. Young children develop their physical skills and happily experiment with sounds when they push and pull objects and listen to musical instruments. Older children work well together. For example, they solve problems together and develop their mathematical and investigation skills. They work out how much sand flows through different sized utensils.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY430730
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	1062502
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	77
Name of registered person	Footsteps Day Nursery And Pre-School Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP901320
Date of previous inspection	8 May 2013
Telephone number	01753 886477

Footsteps Day Nursery and Preschool registered in 2011. It is situated in the grounds of the Chalfont St Peter Football Club. The nursery opens on weekdays from 7.45am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery provides care before and after school and during school holidays for children under eight years of age. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 18 members of staff. Of these, 12 hold early years qualifications. The manager has early years professional status.

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