

First Steps Day Nursery

Wexham Park Hospital, Wexham Street, Wexham, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 4HL



Inspection date

6 March 2017

Previous inspection date

19 October 2016

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

- The manager is highly motivated and seeks to offer a good-quality service. The staff team has successfully tackled the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. For example, tracking of children's progress has developed well and enables staff to recognise where there are any gaps in children's learning effectively.
- Staff know the children well and are warm and attentive towards them. Children are settled, happy and confident.
- Staff are positive role models for children. They successfully help children to understand how to respect and understand the feelings of others. All children behave well and respond appropriately to the rules and boundaries in place.
- Staff teach a broad range of activities well and motivate children to learn. Staff observe and monitor children's progress effectively. All children, including those who have special educational needs, make good progress in their learning.
- Leaders evaluate effectively and make plans to drive continuous improvements that benefit children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss some opportunities to ensure quieter children fully benefit from the group activities planned to help their learning.
- Staff do not make full use of opportunities to encourage parents to contribute to the assessment process and share information about their children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more closely on encouraging all children to actively participate in group activities
- explore ways to involve parents to contribute to the assessment process and to share information about their children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and staff's interactions with children, indoors and during outdoor play.
- The inspector sampled children's information and development records.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff.
- The inspector talked to parents to obtain their views about the nursery.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Jennifer Devine

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a secure understanding of child protection procedures. They attend training to keep their knowledge up to date and are aware of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The manager uses comprehensive recruitment systems to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. She regularly monitors staff practice, supported by individual supervision meetings. This helps her to identify training opportunities in direct response to the needs of staff or children. Staff build effective links with other professionals. Staff take their advice and learn the skills to provide good support to children who have specific needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They observe and assess children's learning and development effectively, which helps them to plan for what children need to learn next. Staff relate well to children. They ask questions and encourage children to think. For example, older children were encouraged to express themselves during a group discussion and think about what sharing and friendships mean. Staff provide a wide range of activities to support children's physical development. For example, they encourage babies to move and explore, and support them to practise moving through the play tunnel. Staff support children to explore their mathematical skills and develop fine hand control. For example, pre-school children made pictures with small shapes and tapped these carefully into place using small pins. They compared the differences and similarities well between the shapes and colours they had used.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff gather relevant information from parents before children start and use this to help them settle and form close bonds. The key-person system is effective and staff know children well. For example, they know when young babies are tired and meet these needs well. Staff support children's independence. For example, children learn to serve themselves at lunchtime and pour their own drinks. Parents comment that they are happy with the care their children receive. Many parents have used the nursery with older siblings. They comment that they are pleased to have the same staff looking after their younger children.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and are motivated learners. They develop key skills for their future learning and their eventual move to school. For example, children play with confidence, have good social skills and remain engaged for long periods with activities that interest them. Older children develop good communication skills, for example, they listen to stories and take part in discussions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	105622
Local authority	Slough
Inspection number	1076849
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	Frimley Health Foundation NHS Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP527331
Date of previous inspection	19 October 2016
Telephone number	01753 634365

First Steps Day Nursery registered in 1996 and operates from purpose-built accommodation in the grounds of Wexham Park Hospital, in Slough. The nursery provides care for the children of hospital staff. It is open each weekday from 6.45am to 5.30pm all year round. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 18 staff, of whom 17 staff have appropriate early years qualifications.

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