

Footsteps Nursery

89 Station Road, Castle Donington, Derby, Derbyshire, DE74 2NL



Inspection date

18 April 2017

Previous inspection date

5 May 2015

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

- The management team strives to provide high-quality provision. They encourage and act on feedback from children, parents and staff. The manager implements plans for improvement successfully in order to continue enhancing outcomes for children.
- Staff work effectively to engage parents in their child's learning. They share information daily about children's care needs and activities. Parents are well informed about their children's learning and development. They have opportunities to borrow activity bags, helping them to continue promoting their child's learning at home.
- The learning environment indoors and outdoors is vibrant and well organised. There is a wide range of good quality resources that children access independently.
- Children are very confident and secure in their surroundings. Staff take time to get to know children and develop strong relationships with them. Children's behaviour is good. Staff provide children with plenty of support and praise.
- Staff have developed good links with children's future schools. They work closely with teachers to ensure progression and continuity of learning and care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not give children enough time to think about how they want to respond to questions and share their own ideas.
- Staff's professional development is not yet focused well enough on raising the quality of teaching to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on questioning skills and provide more opportunities for children to share their own thoughts and ideas
- sharpen the focus on performance management and staff's practice to raise the standard of teaching even higher.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.

Inspector

Teresa Lester

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are knowledgeable about the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Daily risk assessments ensure all areas of the nursery accessed by children are safe and secure. Robust safe recruitment processes are followed to ensure only those who are suitable and appropriately skilled work with children. A thorough induction programme supports all new staff to understand their roles and responsibilities. Regular training opportunities are offered to enhance staff's knowledge and professional development. Parents comment that their children enjoy their time at the nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well qualified and have an understanding of how children learn through exploration and play. Ongoing assessment of children's progress provides staff with information about each child's individual needs. Staff use their observations of children's play to plan a range of activities to motivate children. Babies enjoy playing with stacking cups and musical toys. They copy adults as they play, babbling and learning new words. Older children use their imaginations well as they act out mending equipment in the nursery and undertaking building and constructing activities. The manager and staff monitor the achievements of individuals as well as groups of children. They take prompt and decisive action when any gaps in learning are identified.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children benefit from good settling-in procedures, which are based around their individual needs. Staff promote healthy lifestyles. Freshly cooked meals are provided at lunchtime. Mealtimes are a social occasion. Staff promote children's independence through well-considered everyday activities which increase their self-confidence. For example, children enjoy pouring their own drinks. Physical skills are promoted well. There is space for children to enjoy energetic games both inside and outdoors. Children enthusiastically take part in a range of activities, such as digging, balancing climbing and movement to music.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in all areas of learning. They are eager and motivated learners who enjoy their time in the nursery. Children learn to play cooperatively alongside each other, developing their social skills. They are learning to respect and celebrate each other's differences. Children develop an understanding of diversity through a range of activities that teaches them about people in the wider world. They develop their understanding of literacy and mathematics and are able to solve problems. Children acquire the skills they need in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY361824
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	1093190
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	0 - 5
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	67
Name of registered person	Elizabeth Lillian Eve Hearst
Registered person unique reference number	RP909619
Date of previous inspection	5 May 2015
Telephone number	01332 850 699

Footsteps Nursery was registered in 2008. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, nine hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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