

A Step Ahead at Lancing

Lancing Children and Family Centre, 42 North Road, Lancing, BN15 9AB



Inspection date	18 April 2017
Previous inspection date	25 June 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 manager and well-qualified staff have good partnerships with parents, other professionals and the early years settings that children also attend. This helps to provide consistency in children's care and learning.
- Children are prepared well for school. For example, they learn how to write their name and begin to sound out words and link letters to sounds.
- The children form strong attachments to the staff. Children are keen to learn in the safe and welcoming environment where they are valued and respected.
- The manager and staff support children's developing self-esteem effectively. For example, they praise children, building on their confidence and emotional well-being.
- The manager and staff track and monitor children's progress well. For example, they effectively identify any gaps in learning early, and implement a development plan to help ensure all children make good progress. Staff follow children's interests and children are motivated to learn.
- The manager effectively keeps staff up to date with legislative and practice changes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager and staff do not always seek children's views to help them identify ways to improve children's experiences at the nursery even further.
- Sometimes staff do not provide opportunities for younger children to value and develop an understanding of their own and others' similarities and differences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase ways to involve children in the evaluation of the service provided and seek their views to help improve and develop their experiences at the nursery further
- increase opportunities for younger children to value and develop an understanding of their own and other people's similarities and differences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises and sampled some documentation.
- The inspector observed the manager and staff interacting with children.
- The inspector interviewed the manager and carried out a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector spoke to children and viewed their activities.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Susan Allen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff know what to do if they have a concern about children's welfare and who to contact. The manager supports staff well and identifies their strengths or areas for improvement, and helps encourage any training or development needs. For example, after attending training, staff are more able to ask better questions that encourage children to think before they answer. Since the last inspection, the manager has strengthened the good support for young children to communicate by using a wider range of techniques. For instance, staff use sign language to communicate with babies and toddlers. Staff evaluate their practice effectively. For example, staff identified different ways to help encourage boys to develop their early writing skills, such as by using mobile white boards. Additional funding is used effectively.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy using the wide range of exciting resources and extensive outdoor equipment. Staff use everyday situations to extend learning. For example, when applying sun cream, staff teach children their left from their right. Staff effectively teach older children about mathematics. For instance, children begin to learn about simple addition and subtraction, and as they measure themselves they discuss 'tall' and 'long'. Staff know children very well and effectively plan activities for children of all abilities. For example, while investigating ice, staff added vocabulary such as 'cold' with the older toddlers and provided equipment for younger children to splash and make circles in the water.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff effectively support children in understanding their feelings and emotions. For example, staff use a quiet area in the sensory room and use visual aids to help children identify and manage their feelings. The staff promote children's safety well. For instance, children help tidy up toys and remove trip hazards. Children learn how healthy eating choices help them to grow and develop. For example, after eating oranges staff talk to children about vitamins that help protect them against getting colds. Children also learn how carbohydrates fuel the body and give them energy to run.

Outcomes for children are good

Older children develop the skills they need to move on to the next stage of their learning. For example, they share, take turns and play together. They have good communication and language skills, such as when they talk with staff about how grapes grow on a grapevine. Younger children develop good physical skills, for example, when they play outside and balance on wooden beams. They learn independence skills, such as how to use the toilet and wash their own hands without assistance, and to dress themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY481001
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1095546
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 - 4
Total number of places	63
Number of children on roll	111
Name of registered person	A Step Ahead Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP905756
Date of previous inspection	25 June 2015
Telephone number	07980586622

A Step Ahead at Lancing registered in 2014. It is situated alongside the Lancing Children and Family Centre in Lancing, West Sussex. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm, all year around, except for bank holidays. There are 16 members of staff and, of these, 15 hold childcare qualifications to level 2 or above. This includes one member of staff who holds a Master's degree in Health, one who has early years professional status and another with early years teacher status, plus nine staff who hold early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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