

First Steps Montessori Nursery

Hawkley Village Hall, Hawkley, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 6NE



Inspection date

27 April 2017

Previous inspection date

8 June 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- All children make excellent progress in their learning and development. Children are highly engaged and exceptionally well-motivated to play and learn. The quality of staff's interactions with children are consistently exceptional.
- The quality of teaching is outstanding. Staff use highly effective assessment systems to track the progress of individuals and groups of children. Teaching is extremely responsive to children's interests and changing needs to provide challenge.
- Children are extremely happy and settled. They are deeply absorbed in learning and their behaviour is excellent. Staff share their expectations with children and motivate them to behave well, for example, praising them for positive efforts.
- Staff teach early literacy skills to children superbly. For example, they teach letters and their sounds very skilfully. Some older children learn to read simple words and write their own names.
- Staff have highly successful links with parents and other professionals to support children's learning. Staff provide excellent ways for parents to keep completely up to date with children's achievements and how to support their learning at home.
- The management team monitors children's progress and teaching meticulously. It is highly reflective and consistently aims to improve outcomes for children. Action plans focus on continuous improvement and maintaining the excellent quality of teaching.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build further on staff's understanding of how to deepen and extend older children's early scientific skills and understanding.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during indoor and outdoor play and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held meetings with the provider, and spoke to staff and children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records, safeguarding procedures, written policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector viewed all parts of the premises used by children.

Inspector

Eileen Chadwick

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have extensive knowledge and understanding of the procedures to follow in the case of any concerns about children's welfare. The management team rigorously monitors the nursery. For example, it thoroughly checks staff observations and reviews planning to ensure children's needs are met exceptionally well. Staff have exceptional knowledge about teaching children of all ages. They benefit from highly effective support and regular training, such as enhancing the excellent quality of communication with younger children. Staff recognise the need to provide additional opportunities for older children to deepen their learning about how things work.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are exceptionally skilled at developing children's creativity and thinking. For example, older children imaginatively created various rhythms and sounds as they used different fabrics to muffle drums. Staff give children exceptional opportunities for problem solving. For example, when young children made boats, their excellent questioning prompted children to think about how people would get on to their boats. Staff stimulate children's vocabulary and understanding extremely well. For example, using describing words during an excellent physical activity while children excitedly moved and acted like different beans, including jelly beans, runner beans and frozen beans.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff cherish each child as an individual and form highly nurturing and strong relationships with them. Children have impeccable manners and their behaviour is exemplary. Staff are extremely successful at extending children's ideas. For example, children created highly imaginative pretend food after staff moved the modelling dough closer to the play kitchen area. Children have a wealth of opportunities to do things for themselves. From a young age, children learn to use tools, including scissors, with great skill and care. They have excellent opportunities to develop their physical agility, for example when playing chase and tackling outdoor climbing and balancing equipment.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are extremely well prepared for their future learning, including their move to school. They are very confident communicators and wonderfully eager to learn and explore. They make exceptional progress in developing their mathematical skills. For example, older children accurately count up to 20 while young children easily count out pizzas they have created with modelling dough. They recognise how heavy items are while lifting them with the toy pulley in the outdoor area. From an early age, children develop a love of books and enjoy making marks with a range of items, such as brushes and pencils.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109821
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1089049
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	20
Number of children on roll	19
Name of registered person	Jane Mary Fisher
Registered person unique reference number	RP511860
Date of previous inspection	8 June 2015
Telephone number	0777 5517185

First Steps Montessori Nursery registered in 1996. It operates from the village hall in Hawkley, Hampshire. The nursery opens during term time only on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 3pm, and on Tuesday and Friday from 9am to 1pm. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. There are four members of staff and of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one is qualified to level 2. The nursery operates in line with the Montessori educational philosophy.

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