

Footsteps Nursery & Pre-School



11 Albany Road, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, Bedfordshire, LU7 1NS

Inspection date	7 July 2017
Previous inspection date	8 April 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

- Staff have developed highly successful partnerships with other professionals. They carry out integrated reviews for children. These contribute to the progress check for children between the age of two and three years being a concise and accurate record of their learning and development.
- The provider leads the nursery well, injecting a sense of fun and enthusiasm for providing good-quality care. The manager is highly competent and well qualified. Staff genuinely enjoy their job and their long service demonstrates their commitment to their work.
- Children are eager to talk and share their experiences and ideas. For example, knowing that staff will listen, they gather around and excitedly talk about travelling on aeroplanes and their birthday parties.
- Children form very close relationships with staff, who are gentle, caring and attentive towards their needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The current arrangements for the supervision of staff is still ongoing, particularly to fully review their work and identify precise targets for their ongoing professional development.
- On occasions, some activities and resources set out for older children lack the same variety, interest and stimulation as those available for the younger children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the arrangements for supervising staff's work, so there is an even greater focus on the programme for their ongoing professional development
- extend on the good quality of resources and activities, in particular, so older children consistently experience the highest levels of challenge, interest and excitement in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector read through written feedback left by parents. She spoke to a small number of parents, taking account of their views.
- The inspector spent time talking to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with a member of staff.

Inspector

Hayley Marshall-Gowen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding children are effective. Staff understand their role to follow the guidance of their Local Safeguarding Children Board. They attend regular training to keep their knowledge up to date. Staff recognise the signs and symptoms that children may be at risk of harm and know the correct procedures for passing on such concerns. Parents praise the staff and comment that they offer their children an environment where they feel relaxed and at home. Parents contribute towards their children's learning. Staff value this information and use it to help them to assess their progress. All recommendations raised at the previous inspection have been successfully addressed by staff.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their knowledge of young children's home experiences to enhance their learning. For example, when babies show an interest in a toy dog, they repeat the word and make a 'woof' sound. To extend their interest, staff show children photographs of their pet dog. Children become excited when they see their pet. Young children are highly animated, for instance, as they recognise characters from their favourite book. They recount the story and say what character they like best. Staff place high emphasis on helping children to get ready for starting school. There is extensive support for children and their families, such as open evenings, teacher visits and a real focus to help them to learn the skills they need. Staff accurately assess and track children's learning and development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff use praise as a means to support children's good behaviour. They are confident in using techniques, such as putting pebbles in a jar to reward good behaviour and support children's understanding. Staff make good use of the garden, such as to provide children with a place to play and explore the natural world. For example, children care for the nursery rabbits and learn about the vegetables that they grow. Children strengthen their physical skills, such as when using climbing equipment. They learn about being active and healthy. Staff teach children about keeping themselves safe, such as when playing outside in the sun.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those for who the nursery receives funding, make good progress in their learning and development. They demonstrate high levels of personal, social and emotional development. Children are confident and expressive with a strong sense of their own identity and curiosity about others. Older children learn about counting and solve simple mathematical problems, such as subtracting numbers from 10 as they remove a toy.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY394420
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	1093911
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	52
Number of children on roll	88
Name of registered person	Footsteps Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904527
Date of previous inspection	8 April 2015
Telephone number	01525 375 679

Footsteps Nursery & Pre-School registered in 2009 and is located in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including the manager who is qualified at degree level. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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