

First Step Day Nursery

11 Harold Road, London, SE19 3PU



Inspection date

11 July 2017

Previous inspection date

26 September 2013

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

- Children make good progress with their learning and development. Overall, staff provide effective teaching and activities that challenge children's learning.
- Staff develop good partnerships with parents and other professionals. They welcome parents' involvement in the setting and keep them well informed about their child's care and learning. Parents contribute to assessments and speak highly of the setting and the progress their children make.
- Staff frequently conduct effective checks on the premises to keep children safe and secure. They have a good knowledge of the accident and medication requirement to further promote children's safety and well-being.
- The manager effectively evaluates and reflects on the quality of the provision, taking into account the views of staff and parents. For example, following feedback from parent questionnaires and discussions, managers have implemented home learning packs to support parents to continue learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not organise some group activities well and children become distracted and do not focus well on their learning. This is particularly evident in the periods before mealtimes for older children and story times for younger children.
- The current processes for planning for children are still developing. For example, staff are not always creative in planning activities to build on younger children's existing physical development

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- revise the organisation of some aspects of the daily routine and activities to enable children to focus and concentrate on learning opportunities being offered
- strengthen further the planning for younger children to place even more precise focus on enjoyable ways to support physical development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all parts of the setting, including the outdoor area.
- The inspector spoke to some members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the management team.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and the provision's policies and procedures, including those related to the suitability of staff.

Inspector

Patricia Edward

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The deployment of staff helps to ensure children receive good levels of supervision. All staff have a clear knowledge of child protection issues. They understand the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Robust recruitment processes ensure that staff are suitably checked and vetted prior to employment. This helps to provide stability and security for children. Staff benefit from continuous support from the manager to fulfil their roles. For instance, they attended training on 'early talkers' to support them to gain more skills and abilities in promoting all children's communication and language.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff provide varied and meaningful experiences that build on children's interests. Children have good attitudes to learning. For example, they enjoy playing in the imaginative role-play area. Children dress up and select accessories to transform into a range of characters and go on imaginary journeys. Staff encourage children to try new activities. For instance, they enjoy mixing various paints to invent different colours and create various pieces of art with the paint they have made. Younger children are fascinated when taking part in play opportunities to explore their senses. For example, they enjoy exploring the feel of shaving foam on their hands and observe the changes it makes as it is mixed with drops of paint.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The staff provide a welcoming learning environment which reflects the diverse range of children's backgrounds. They support children to gain a sense of belonging. For example, they use words in children's home languages to further build on their communication and language skills. Older children enjoy daily physical exercise that provides them with suitable challenge. For instance, during outdoor play, children enthusiastically balance on wooden logs, climb apparatus and access and whiz around on wheeled equipment. Children behave well. They listen and respond to adults, share and learn to take turns with their friends. The environment is maintained well and is clean and tidy to maintain children's good health.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. They develop a wide range of skills for their future learning in preparation for their move to school. They are independent, for example, at lunchtimes they dish out their own meals and scrape off their food when they have finished. Children learn to look after themselves. They manage their personal needs, such as using the toilet and eating snacks.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY297574
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	1061848
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	61
Number of children on roll	66
Name of registered person	First Step Day Nursery
Registered person unique reference number	RP904301
Date of previous inspection	26 September 2013
Telephone number	0208 771 7727

First Step Day Nursery registered in 2004 and is one of two nurseries owned by the same provider. It operates from a converted house in Upper Norwood, in the London Borough of Croydon. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery is funded to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 16 staff. Of whom, one holds qualified teacher status and 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 to level 6.

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