

First Steps @ Bersted

39 Chichester Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 2XH



Inspection date	26 October 2017
Previous inspection date	6 May 2014

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 are kind, caring and positive. They take the time to get to know children and build trusting bonds with them. Children enjoy their time spent at the nursery very much and enthusiastically engage in a wide variety of experiences. They are well settled, secure and make good progress from their developmental starting points.
- Staff accurately assess children's development and the manager monitors children's progress closely. She checks for any gaps between groups of children, such as those who speak English as an additional language. Staff plan successfully for children's next steps in learning and offer further support where needed.
- The manager reflects carefully on the effectiveness of the nursery. She works effectively with staff, parents and children to help identify strengths and areas for further improvement. She makes positive changes to help meet the needs of all children and maintain their good outcomes.
- Parent partnerships are strong. The manager and staff keep parents fully up to date with their children's development. They regularly share records of what children are learning and ideas for how parents can further support this at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff performance is not yet monitored closely enough to help raise the quality of teaching to the very highest level.
- Staff do not make full use of opportunities to help children understand the importance and benefits a healthy diet has on their physical well-being.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the monitoring of staff performance further to help raise staff practice to the highest standard
- provide further support for children to fully understand how healthy eating can benefit their physical well-being.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the nursery's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and held discussions in relation to children's learning and progress.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Overall, the manager offers good support for her staff to help continue their professional development. She has regular individual and team meetings to discuss practice, the children's developmental needs and introduce new ideas. The well-qualified staff also access regular training opportunities. After recent training, they have improved their understanding of how mathematics can be encouraged through everyday activities. For example, staff use number cards to show how many grapes children can have for snack and children confidently count them. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have an up-to-date knowledge of how to deal with any child protection concerns and follow thorough procedures. They vigilantly assess risks and monitor the nursery environment closely to help maintain children's safety at all times.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well and record accurate observations of their learning and current interests. They use this information successfully to help them plan a stimulating and engaging learning environment. For example, pre-school children enjoy acting out scenes from their favourite stories. Staff join in and encourage them to talk about what happens next and to build parts of the story with blocks. Staff support children who speak English as an additional language effectively. They give children opportunities to see and hear their home languages and use visual support for changes of routine. Young children explore their environment confidently and enjoy trying new activities. Staff support their communication skills effectively. For example, they encourage plenty of interesting conversation, listen carefully as they speak and model correct language.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well and develop strong social skills. They show consideration for the needs of others and happily share and include friends in their play. Staff skilfully support children to understand their emotions. For instance, as they read stories, they encourage children to discuss how the characters feel and what might make them happy or sad. Children have plenty of opportunities to be active and develop their good physical skills. For example, they complete challenging obstacle courses, throw balls and learn to ride bicycles.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and for school. Young children confidently move between the indoor and outdoor environments and show good independence. They use words to express themselves and begin to use simple sentences. Pre-school children are creative and enjoy imaginary play. They work together to develop their role play, such as catching robbers and putting them in jail. Children enjoy drawing and making marks with paint, pencils and in shaving foam. They develop good skills for early writing. Children have a strong understanding of shapes and develop good finger muscles, such as when carefully picking up leaves with large tweezers.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY471304
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1069913
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	88
Number of children on roll	107
Name of registered person	Chichester College Services Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP520759
Date of previous inspection	6 May 2014
Telephone number	01243 830840

First Steps @ Bersted registered in 2013. The nursery operates in Bognor Regis, West Sussex. It is open from 7.30am to 6pm each weekday, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery employs 11 staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate childcare qualifications between level 3 and level 2. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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