

First Steps Children's Nursery

First Steps Nursery, Stonehouse Farm, Birmingham, B32 3DX



Inspection date	17 April 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- Children experience exceptionally challenging and stimulating learning experiences based on their own choices. The environment is extremely well planned and resourced. Staff provide exciting activities for children that increase their learning and exploration.
- Partnerships with parents are highly successful and they are involved in all aspects of their children's learning and care. Staff guide parents skilfully in how to support children's learning at home and to plan their next steps.
- The quality of teaching and staff's interaction with children is outstanding. Staff guide and support children's learning and engage their enthusiasm. They develop children's language extremely well and children make rapid progress in all their learning.
- Children are very happy in the environment, and their individual needs are met exceptionally well. Staff teach children to have good manners and to share the toys. All children gain high levels of independence, such as when they serve themselves at meal times. They play happily together and form close bonds with their key person. Children behave extremely well.
- Managers and staff are innovative in their drive to help all children achieve their full potential. Self-evaluation and monitoring is precise and meticulous. Areas for improvement in staff practice and all aspects of the nursery are identified and quickly addressed to maintain the outstanding quality of the provision.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to extend staff knowledge and practice of inspirational approaches to learning to further enhance children's excellent learning opportunities.

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager, the deputy manager, the area manager and the quality excellence manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and considered their views.

Inspector

Catherine Sharkey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The managers and staff implement rigorous procedures to keep children safe. They update their knowledge regularly and have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities. The managers test staff's knowledge and practice regularly. Managers have high expectations for the achievements of children and staff. Staff are extremely well supported to continually update their knowledge and skills. Staff continually review the impact of their teaching and planning on children's learning. They monitor the progress of individual children and of specific groups exceptionally well to help identify and close any gaps in learning rapidly. Staff work very successfully with other professionals when necessary.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff prepare all children extremely well for the next stages in their learning. They teach children to recognise sounds, letters and numbers from an early age. Staff use expert questioning and demonstrations to help children to count and use simple addition. They continually challenge children's thinking and encourage their ideas. For example, staff ask toddlers which parts of a robot they still need to attach and where they need to put each arm and leg. Staff guide children in their thinking about how they might be able to do this. When babies show that they enjoy the sound of a spade banging on a bucket, staff copy this and encourage them to make other sounds and to repeat sounds and words. They take every opportunity to increase children's knowledge and skills and to develop their interests. The outdoor area is exceptionally well-resourced and provides highly stimulating and varied learning experiences for all children.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children demonstrate confidence in their social skills and enjoy their interactions with staff. Babies are relaxed and secure with the caring staff and they settle to sleep easily. Staff know children very well and give the highest priority to their well-being. Children are familiar with their routines and understand what is expected of them. They follow instructions extremely well and older children help staff to set their rooms up for lunch and tidy up afterwards. Children develop their physical skills through their use of an extensive range of exciting activities. For example, older children show great enthusiasm when they race down a slope on sit-and-ride toys, then lift these up to run up the slope to start again. They show thoughtfulness as they wait for all the children to get to the starting position.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children show great enthusiasm in their play and are eager to try new activities. For example, babies are enthralled as they watch and try to catch bubbles. They persevere and have good control when they concentrate hard on trying to fit the bubble wand into the tube to load it with liquid. Pre-school children are extremely imaginative as they choose and pack the clothes they need to travel to Italy. They eagerly make their own passports and form letters of their names correctly. Children make rapid progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY539602
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	1076340
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	60
Number of children on roll	80
Name of registered person	The Midcounties Co-Operative Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900862
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	0121 427 9056

First Steps Children's Nursery is one of several settings owned by The Midcounties Co-Operative Limited. The nursery re-registered in 2016. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 3, 5 or 7. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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