

Child First Northampton

Moulton Lodge, Moulton Way North, Moulton, Northampton,
Northamptonshire NN3 7RW



Inspection date	22 August 2018
Previous inspection date	29 August 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- The experienced management and staff team are very passionate about supporting families and promoting the best possible outcomes for all children.
- Children benefit from plenty of opportunities to experience fresh air and explore in the highly stimulating and exciting outdoor areas.
- Staff promote children's emotional well-being very well. They establish warm and caring relationships with the children and this helps them to feel secure and settle quickly.
- Children develop confidence in their communication and language skills. Staff repeat what children say and commentate on what they are doing. They constantly praise children and celebrate when they learn new words and use these in their play.
- Children behave very well. Staff act as positive role models and effectively support children to respect each other. Children follow instructions, take turns and use their manners routinely.
- The management team is enthusiastic about the continued development of the nursery. Management actively seeks the views of parents, staff and children to identify and develop areas for improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, children's next steps in learning are not identified precisely enough to help them make the best possible progress.
- The monitoring of staff's practice does not precisely identify what individual staff need to do to raise the quality of their teaching to a higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on identifying children's individual next steps in learning, to help them to make the best possible progress
- strengthen the monitoring of staff's individual practice and focus more specifically on raising the quality of teaching to the highest level.

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 completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the deputy manager and spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views from documents provided for the inspection.

Inspector

Linda Newcombe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of the possible signs and indicators of abuse and neglect. They are aware of the procedure to follow to report any concerns about children's welfare. Robust recruitment and ongoing vetting systems are in place to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. Strong links are established with local schools and other professionals. Relevant information is shared with them to promote the children's continued progress and to support their move on to school. The management team tracks the progress of groups and individual children to identify any possible gaps in learning. Additional funding is used effectively to support the individual needs of children and help them make the best possible progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The staff team is highly qualified. Staff use their observations and assessments of children to plan activities based around their current interests. For example, older children make 'rain clouds' in jars and thoroughly enjoy experimenting with shaving foam and colour dyes as they test out their ideas and theories. They discuss more complex concepts, such as why some things float and others sink in water. Younger children develop their mark-making skills as they mix, explore and investigate making marks with 'berry paint'. Babies relish the freedom of choosing to play indoors or outdoors. They delight as they catch bubbles and explore using all their senses. Staff value parents as contributors to children's learning. They provide ideas on how parents can continue their children's learning at home, and parents can access their child's learning journal at any time.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy being active outdoors and gain a good awareness of nature and the community in which they live. They show impressive skills when tackling physical challenges and managing risks, such as climbing trees or using rope swings safely. Children go for walks around the local area and visit the nearby care home, where they join in singing songs with the staff and residents. Children learn about leading a healthy lifestyle. For example, they show a keen interest in planting and harvesting vegetables they have grown from seed. Babies gain confidence in their physical skills as they crawl, stand and learn to walk. Younger children develop their imaginations as they role play washing-up and begin to follow their own play interests.

Outcomes for children are good

Children show curiosity in exploring their environment and a positive disposition to learn. All children make good progress and gain the necessary skills they need for their next stage in learning or their move on to school. Children are confident and active learners. They develop good social skills and demonstrate their growing independence as they initiate their own play and take part in team games. Children develop an interest in books and enjoy listening to familiar stories.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY342823
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	10067941
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	130
Number of children on roll	189
Name of registered person	Child 1st Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP526561
Date of previous inspection	29 August 2013
Telephone number	01604 790 440

Child First Northampton registered in 2006. It employs 30 members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. Two staff hold qualified teacher status and early years teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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