

Footsteps to Dolphin Street



38 Dolphin Street, Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 8AZ

Inspection date	20 March 2019
Previous inspection date	7 March 2016

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

- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Parents are highly complimentary about the outstanding quality of the nursery environment, the educational support and exemplary care that their children receive from staff. They describe how staff create a 'welcoming', 'non-judgemental' and 'special' atmosphere.
- Partnership working is exceptionally well embedded. These highly effective and engaging partnerships with parents and other professionals enable staff to meet all children's individual needs exceptionally well. This is particularly effective in supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Parents feel they are kept fully involved in their children's learning and all assessment processes.
- There is a culture of reflective practice in place. The manager and staff are entirely invested and show a firm commitment to continuously improving the already excellent practice in place. Self-evaluation is ongoing, incisive and leads to targeted improvement plans that have a substantial impact on outcomes for children.
- Teaching is inspirational. Staff consistently extend children's learning to the highest levels, using their professional knowledge of how children learn and develop exceptionally well. They expertly adapt activities to tailor their approach to reflect children's individual stage of learning and their emerging interests. Children make rapid progress in their learning.
- Staff are excellent role models. They strongly support children to develop their self-confidence and self-awareness. Children are extremely well behaved.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the already strong strategies for promoting children's independence to reach even higher levels and evaluate the impact on their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Julia Hymers

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff confidently fulfil their role to protect children from harm. They have an expert knowledge of wider safeguarding issues and know what to do should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. The management team implements highly effective recruitment and vetting procedures to help ensure staff are suitable. Parents are highly complimentary about the care and education their children receive. They trust staff implicitly and comment that children are extremely happy, well settled and make excellent progress in the nursery. The professional development of the staff team is sharply focused and helps to maintain the exceptional quality of teaching already in place. The management team meticulously monitors how well individual and different groups of children achieve in their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are highly motivated and they know the children exceptionally well. They accurately assess children's progress and identify their next steps in learning. Staff speak clearly and precisely. This is particularly beneficial for children who speak English as an additional language to support their understanding. Staff use their accurate observations and assessments of children to precisely tailor learning experiences to meet their individual needs. For example, after a child wrote a letter independently, staff extended this learning by working with her to create a post box and to visit the local Post Office to send a letter home. Staff use highly engaging and interesting activities to develop children's interests. For example, one boy was keen to use builder's tools and so staff froze toy cars and trucks inside ice so that he could use construction equipment to get them out.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff warmly welcome children on arrival so they feel happy and safe. In addition, transition processes meet the needs of the children and enable them to settle with ease when moving on to school. Children thrive in this caring and nurturing environment and develop highly meaningful relationships with their key person and staff they regularly see. The well-qualified staff place a strong emphasis on promoting children's independence and self-care skills, and children are encouraged to put on their own coats. Staff have identified ways to promote children's independence even further. Staff are skilled at teaching children how to share and take turns, and behaviour is excellent throughout the nursery. Staff help children to learn about living creatures. For example, when the children found a ladybird, staff encouraged them to find a safe place for it to live and showed them how to handle it carefully.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those with SEND, make exceptional rates of progress given their starting points and capabilities. Children are exceedingly well prepared for the next stage in learning and their move to school. Older children are keen to write their name while younger children are engaged in wonderful mark-making activities both indoors and outdoors. Children are highly motivated learners and are eager to explore their environment and learn new skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY477695
Local authority	Newcastle upon Tyne
Inspection number	10064912
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	Footsteps Children's Service Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP909252
Date of previous inspection	7 March 2016
Telephone number	0191 4359084

Footsteps to Dolphin Street registered in 2014. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including the manager who holds a BA Honours Degree in Children and Young Persons. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday. Sessions are from 9am until 4pm, term time only. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children with SEND and those who speak English as an additional language.

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