

First Steps Nursery (New Mills) Ltd

1 Hibbert Street, New Mills, HIGH PEAK, Derbyshire SK22 3JJ



Inspection date	12 April 2019
Previous inspection date	6 April 2017

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

This provision is good

- The leaders and manager ensure that the nursery operates to a high standard. They are knowledgeable and committed. Staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding and how to keep children safe.
- Children enjoy the time they spend in the nursery. They take part in a wide range of interesting experiences and are engaged in their learning.
- Staff manage children's behaviour fairly and consistently. Children play alongside their friends and share toys. Staff support children's play and develop their understanding of being kind to friends.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff know the children well and make accurate assessments of their learning. They use this information to plan interesting activities linked to the next steps in children's learning and their interests.
- Children form secure attachments with caring and affectionate staff. This supports their emotional development and means they explore with confidence and enjoy trying new things.
- All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who receive funding, make good progress in their learning and development. Staff work exceptionally with parents and outside agencies to ensure they understand children's individual needs.
- Children's play is occasionally interrupted before and after structured activities and mealtimes. This has a negative impact on their learning.
- Staff do not always allow children to take risks in their play. This limits children's ability to learn about how to keep themselves safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the arrangements provided for children to play independently, between more structured activities, to maximise learning opportunities for all children
- provide more opportunities for children to take manageable risks during their play to increase their ability to learn how to keep themselves safe.

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 inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. He looked at relevant documentation and the evidence of the suitability of staff working within the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector
Ben Hartley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff demonstrate a secure knowledge of safeguarding. Staff are deployed appropriately to make sure that children are kept safe. Staff identify potential risks in the environment and minimise the potential dangers to children. The qualifications and knowledge of the staff team have a positive effect on the overall quality of the nursery. Staff reflect on their practice and consider ways to further the experiences of the children. Staff have recently started taking children to the sister nursery, located within walking distance, to provide children with a broader outdoor learning experience. The manager regularly monitors staff practice and tracks the progress of groups of children. Parents comment very positively on the quality of the nursery, stating that they go 'above and beyond' to understand the needs of families and help whenever possible.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children demonstrate their engagement in learning and enjoy the wide range of interesting and well-planned activities. Staff communicate very skilfully with children. They understand the importance of allowing them time to build their own ideas and thoughts and asking them questions at appropriate times. Younger children really enjoy creative activities. For example, they use cars and trucks to paint. Their faces show enthusiasm and excitement as they play and explore the textures of the materials. Children also particularly enjoy the indoor climbing frame, where they spend a great deal of time developing their physical skills. Older children enjoy stories and staff have developed a way to enable them to play an active role in them. Children have to come up with solutions to help the main character in the story. This helps to promote their ability to solve problems and think creatively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate their attachment to staff. This helps them to settle quickly into their play and explore with confidence. Staff are committed to ensuring children learn about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Children are encouraged to make positive choices in relation to their diet. Additionally, staff take children swimming on a weekly basis. This gives children a life skill and teaches them about the importance of physical exercise. Children follow rules and share resources. Children enjoy sharing experiences with their friends and are learning about each other's differences.

Outcomes for children are good

Younger and older children make good progress from their individual starting points. Children with SEND receive excellent support to achieve their specific targets. Outside agencies that work with the families and the nursery comment specifically on the superb support that these children receive and the progress they make. Children develop the skills they need for their future learning, including school. They demonstrate that they are confident learners who are able to build their own ideas and explore.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY346962
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	10103998
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	68
Number of children on roll	89
Name of registered person	First Steps Nursery (New Mills) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP526749
Date of previous inspection	6 April 2017
Telephone number	01663 745 000

First Steps Nursery (New Mills) Ltd registered in 2007. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The manager and deputy manager hold qualifications at level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year around, except for a 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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