

Footsteps Pre-Nursery

Great Dell Scout Hut, Great Dell, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 7HX



Inspection date	14 May 2019
Previous inspection date	19 January 2016

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 experienced manager leads a committed staff team who work very well together. They regularly reflect on their practice and identify areas for improvement. For example, they have made changes to the outdoor area, such as adding more equipment to help children to develop their physical skills.
- Staff teach children how to relax and to become aware of their minds and bodies. For example, they encourage them to sit quietly and breathe deeply. At other times, staff use incense sticks and soft chimes to help children to learn how to use their senses for other forms of relaxation. Such activities impact positively on children's mental health and overall well-being.
- Children make good progress. The provider and staff prepare children well for moving on to nursery or school. For example, they make contact with children's next teachers and use photographs to help children to become familiar with their new environments.
- Parents speak highly of the care and education the well-established staff provide to their children. They feel children are developing well, especially with their communication skills. Parents say children have a consistent key person and this helps them to feel secure and happy at the pre-nursery.
- Staff do not gain sufficient information from parents on what children can already do when they first start, to help more precisely identify children's starting points from the outset.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gain more detailed information about what children can already do when they start to attend and support staff to more precisely identify children's starting points in learning from the outset.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's teaching and interactions with children, indoors and outside.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children and held a meeting with the manager and provider.
- The inspector observed an adult-planned activity with the manager and held a discussion with her about staff's teaching skills and children's learning.
- The inspector looked at a sample of paperwork, including staff qualifications and suitability checks of staff and committee members. The safeguarding policies and procedures were also seen.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through discussion and their written comments.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff regularly complete safeguarding training and understand how to recognise concerns about children's safety and welfare. They know how to swiftly make referrals, both within the pre-nursery and to relevant agencies. Staff turnover in the well-established pre-nursery is low. Despite this, the provider has rigorous recruitment procedures in place. The manager supports new staff, students and volunteers to work through an induction procedure. This helps to ensure that all adults understand their roles and responsibilities. The provider and manager monitor staff's performance through regular supervision meetings. Staff receive targeted professional development opportunities and talk about the positive impact training has on their practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff teach children effectively as they learn through play and planned activities. For example, they encourage children to look at how many sides shapes have and tell them what each shape is called. As children use construction toys, staff help them to count and talk about height. Staff regularly observe and assess children's development. They look for any gaps in children's learning and identify how they can best support children to make good progress. They share children's development records with parents, and this helps to promote continuity in their learning. Parents provide information to staff about what their children have been learning at home and this is taken into account in the ongoing assessments of children's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff make good use of woodlands adjacent to the pre-nursery building. Children enjoy walks, and staff share stories with children outdoors. At other times, children use the outdoor learning environment and have opportunities to develop strong physical skills, for example by climbing. Children show high levels of independence and develop good self-care skills. Staff encourage children to complete tasks for themselves, such as changing their shoes and helping at snack times. Children engage well in self-chosen activities. They learn to cooperate with others, for instance when they negotiate what roles they will undertake as they engage in imaginative play.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress and gaining effective skills that prepare them well for the next stages in their learning and, ultimately, for school. Children enjoy making marks with water and talk about what each mark represents. For example, they describe a curved line as a rainbow. They learn how to use a range of technological toys and equipment. For example, they build up towers and skilfully direct remote-controlled cars to knock them down. Children enjoy spending time in the well-resourced book area. They share books with their friends and with members of staff and are able to recall stories and express their own ideas.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY242708
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10067195
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Footsteps Pre-Nursery, Welwyn Garden City Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP904026
Date of previous inspection	19 January 2016
Telephone number	07768315575

Footsteps Pre-Nursery registered in 2002. It is located in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. The pre-nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-nursery opens Monday to Friday, term time only, from 9.15am until 12.15pm. The pre-nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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