

St Francis Preschool

Newton Ferrers Church of England Primary School, Newton Ferrers,
Dillons the Green, Newton Ferrers Plymouth, Devon PL8 1AS



Inspection date	23 May 2019
Previous inspection date	13 June 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 leadership team is reflective and keen to continually develop and improve the provision. Staff form close links with the school on site, to help ensure continuity of learning. This enables them to share good practice and access additional professional development opportunities, for example recent safeguarding training attended by all staff.
- Staff know the children well and provide varied and interesting learning opportunities both indoors and outside. As a result, children are engaged and enjoy learning together. For example, they use their imaginations to build a pirate boat outside and play inside in an 'under the sea' area.
- Staff have warm, positive relationships with children and parents, which ensures children are settled and well cared for in the pre-school. Staff welcome children as they arrive. Children show confidence as they join in with their friends.
- Children make good progress in readiness for school. They learn to play together cooperatively and staff support their learning effectively. They take time to talk with children, extending their communication skills.
- Staff do not always make the most of all opportunities to develop children's independence and enable them to have their own ideas in their learning.
- Staff do not consistently ensure that parents have a range of ways to contribute to the assessments of children's progress, in order to make the most of the learning that takes place at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen staff's understanding and knowledge about how best to develop opportunities for the children to use their own ideas and develop independence further
- further develop opportunities for all parents to contribute to assessments of their children's progress, including their starting points on entry.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to the manager, staff, head of Teaching and Learning sharing the site, parents and children to gain their feedback.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager to assess the quality of teaching and learning during adult-led activities.
- The inspector observed children's play inside and outdoors, and staff's interactions with them during the day.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including staff suitability checks, a selection of policies and children's records.

Inspector
Stephanie Wright

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The manager supports staff well and ensures they deepen their understanding of child development through working with school colleagues. For example, they have improved the outdoor learning opportunities for children. The manager improves and extends the children's learning experiences, for example, children enjoy forest school activities and trips, such as to an aquarium. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and head of Teaching and Learning ensure that all staff receive regular safeguarding updates in order to meet requirements. As a result, they all know what actions to take if they have concerns about a child and have an understanding of wider safeguarding issues. The manager ensures that staff carefully monitor children's progress and identify what children need to learn next.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff carefully observe the children to find out what interests them and take this into account when planning activities, to ensure children are motivated to learn. For example, staff provide sensory resources they know will capture the children's interests. Children notice changes in colour and textures that take place as they play. Staff develop children's communication skills effectively, such as by introducing new vocabulary as they play alongside them. They help older children to learn about letter sounds as they sing songs with actions in a group. Staff support younger children to develop their physical skills, such as using a knife to spread butter on a cracker or learning to move up and down the steps safely.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's emotional needs well and have secure relationships with the children. Children learn about keeping healthy as they enjoy fruit, grow food on the allotment and learn about washing hands before snack time. Children behave well. They help each other to tidy up the resources, and cooperate as they build together and play alongside each other, digging for 'treasure'. Staff sensitively support children to be kind to each other and to be aware of other children's feelings. Staff help children develop socially, through sharing and taking turns. Staff encourage and praise children, who are confident and happy to learn.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good literacy skills. They enthusiastically share books with each other on the carpet and learn to write their names on their pictures. Children gain an understanding of shape and size as they build and make dens and explore the outside environment. Younger children learn about different materials as they play with compost in the outdoor kitchen and become interested in making marks as they paint. Older children develop socially as they prepare for moving on to school. They build confidence as they start to join in with events at school, forming new relationships and preparing for the next phase of their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY476937
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10075898
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	First Beginnings Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533617
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2016
Telephone number	07746 953 901

St Francis Preschool registered in 2014 on the site of Newton Ferrers County Primary School, near Plymouth in Devon. It is open Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 3pm during term time only. It receives early years funding for children aged three and four years old. There are two members of staff who work directly with children, one of whom holds an appropriate level 3 qualification. Staff work in close partnership with the school where they share the site.

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