

Newtown Community Learning Center t/a First Steps Day Nursery

Newtown Community Primary School, Newtown Road, Carlisle, Cumbria
CA2 7LW



Inspection date	6 August 2019
Previous inspection date	31 January 2014

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

- A culture of reflective practice is extremely well embedded throughout the whole nursery. Leaders and staff alike show a show passion and commitment to delivering the best service for children and their families. They are proactive and consistently reflect on their practice, accurately identifying where improvements can be made.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are provided with exceptional support. Staff work collaboratively with all involved, including healthcare professionals, and advice is accurately and swiftly threaded into individual plans. Staff make every effort to ensure all children are fully included and reach their full potential.
- Teaching is outstanding. Staff use their expert knowledge to provide children with support that is extremely well matched to their developmental needs. Staff are entirely in tune with children, sensitively joining in with their play ideas or understanding the importance of giving them uninterrupted times to play and explore. All children make excellent progress.
- Partnerships with parents are superb. Leaders and staff place high priority on providing every opportunity for parents to be involved in their children's learning, in the nursery and at home. For example, home learning boxes and monthly challenges for parents to complete with their children at home have had a positive impact on children's learning.
- Children thoroughly enjoy their time at this exceptionally warm and nurturing setting. Parents take the lead on settling-in arrangements, entirely accommodated by staff. As a result, children settle in quickly and develop a strong sense of inclusion and positive attachments with their key person and staff they regularly see.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop professional development opportunities for staff that aim to maintain the already excellent practice and teaching in place.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, during play inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held a meeting with the nursery manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and other written comments.
- The inspector looked at children's records, evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Katie Sparrow

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are supported exceptionally well by the manager to maintain their comprehensive knowledge of safeguarding and the procedures to follow in the event of a concern. There is an array of professional development opportunities for staff. The manager is aware of the importance of ongoing training in order to maintain staff's skills, knowledge and practice. She has highly effective systems in place to closely monitor and swiftly identify any gaps in children's learning. The manager works very closely with staff to implement highly effective support and timely interventions, to enable all children to excel.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff's enthusiasm for working with children is infectious. They are dedicated to maximising every opportunity for learning through carefully planned and fully informed activities, experiences and interactions. Together with ongoing information from parents, staff use their expert knowledge of children's next steps to create further opportunities for learning. Staff are equally skilled at planning 'in the moment'. For example, following on from children's play with balls, staff facilitate further challenge, introducing tubes for children to extend their own ideas. Children thoroughly enjoy posting the balls down the tubes, which staff extend even further, suggesting they measure how far the balls have travelled. Staff's skilful teaching greatly enhances children's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's good health is promoted exceptionally well. They thoroughly enjoy time spent outdoors. Staff ensure the garden area is equally rich in learning experiences. Important hygiene routines are very well embedded. Staff talk to children about why we wash our hands, which children confidently explain. Behaviour within the nursery is exemplary. Children play harmoniously together, sharing resources, working as a team and inviting one another to join in with their play. Children have wonderful opportunities to learn about people and communities beyond their own experiences. For example, in the lead up to the 'around the world picnic', children explored many different countries. This included Greece, where they listened to traditional music and participated in their own version of the custom of plate smashing, using paper plates.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including the very youngest, show an excellent attitude to their learning and explorations. Babies determinedly navigate around the environment, seeking out the array of interesting and inviting resources. Older children are keen and motivated, becoming entirely absorbed in their learning. Older children develop superb early literacy skills. They recite their favourite stories and use the pictures in books to identify the nursery rhyme. Children are confident communicators. Younger children are learning to listen and focus their attention, while older children introduce storylines into their play and articulately share their ideas. All children are confident, motivated and well prepared for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY288187
Local authority	Cumbria
Inspection number	10109707
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	75
Name of registered person	Newtown Community Learning Centre
Registered person unique reference number	RP907205
Date of previous inspection	31 January 2014
Telephone number	01228 522249

Newtown Community Learning Center t/a First Steps Day Nursery registered in 2003. The nursery operates from a purpose-built building in the grounds of Newtown Community School in Carlisle, Cumbria. It opens five days a week from 8am until 6pm, all year round. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. There are currently eight staff employed at the nursery, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager holds a foundation degree.

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