

Inspection of First Friends Day Nursery - Eastleigh

First Friends Day Nursery, Grantham Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 5PU

Inspection date: 22 February 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children demonstrate that they feel happy, safe and secure in the nursery's warm and welcoming environment. Babies develop strong bonds with the staff who look after them. They enjoy trying new foods, such as banana, as they gain confidence in feeding themselves. Older children are confident and develop good levels of self-esteem. They benefit from the wide range of resources, which support their individual interests. Children are polite and courteous and behave well. For instance, as children play with the remote-controlled car, they say 'thank you' as they offer their friends a turn.

The manager and her staff have high expectations for all children. Staff plan a good range of learning experiences to ensure all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, children who speak English as an additional language and those in receipt of additional funding, make good progress from their starting points. Children concentrate well in activities that interest them. They develop good listening and attention skills and share their own thoughts and ideas confidently. For example, as staff read favourite stories to children, they talk about 'Maisy Mouse's accident'. Children suggest that 'it is important to walk indoors, to stop you falling over and hurting yourself'.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Partnerships with parents are good. Parents speak very highly of the staff and the good-quality care and learning experiences they provide for children. They comment that the 'caring and dedicated staff have helped our child's confidence really grow'. Staff regularly share a wealth of information with parents. For instance, staff offer advice and support when babies are being weaned onto solid foods. They encourage older children to take home favourite books to share with their parents.
- The manager is a strong leader. Staff say that they feel valued in their roles and are well supported by the manager. The staff team works well together and this contributes to the harmonious environment in the nursery. The manager and staff are keen to improve and show a positive attitude to evaluation. They know what they do well and areas to develop. The manager recognises that there is yet more she can do to embed the professional development of her staff, to support and develop their teaching to a higher level.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff know their key children well. They value each child's unique personality and tailor activities to their individual interests. Staff regularly check the progress children make, to help them plan enjoyable learning experiences. However, staff's knowledge of the learning intent for older children is not fully embedded. Therefore, sometimes, teaching is not precisely focused on what children need to know or be able to do next.

- Staff promote children's positive behaviour well through daily activities. Staff are good role models. They are polite, courteous and respectful with the children they care for. In turn, children are well behaved. They learn how to take turns with favourite toys and respect and value the differing needs of their friends.
- Staff develop strong, trusting relationships with children, which support children's personal, social and emotional development well. Younger children and those who are less confident benefit from the care that staff tailor to their needs. When children need more reassurance, staff offer this sensitively. For instance, babies enjoy cuddles when they are tired, as staff soothe them to sleep. Children benefit from the strong bonds they build with staff, to support their good levels of self-esteem.
- Opportunities for children to learn about the wider world are a strength of the setting. Children take part in various celebrations and learn about other cultures and beliefs that reflect the nursery community, such as Chinese New Year and Russian New Year. Staff help children to develop their understanding and respect for the diverse world they live in, which prepares them well for life in modern Britain.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a good knowledge of how to keep children safe. They benefit from regular training to keep their knowledge of safeguarding up to date. Staff know how to report any concerns they may have about a child's welfare. Robust recruitment and induction processes are in place and appropriate checks are made to ensure staff are, and continue to be, suitable to work in the nursery. Staff supervise children as they play indoors and outdoors and at mealtimes, to ensure their physical welfare.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- reflect more closely on staff's professional development to help evaluate and target training that contributes to the continued quality of teaching, to support children's learning to the highest level
- enhance staff's understanding of how to use their knowledge of what children know and can do to plan more precisely for their next steps in learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY558651
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10194085
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	First Friends Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP529252
Telephone number	07775333395
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

First Friends Day Nursery - Eastleigh registered in 2018. It is located in Eastleigh, Hampshire. The nursery provides care for children from Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm, for 51 weeks of the year. There are 12 staff who work at the nursery, including the cook. Of these staff, nine have appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. One member of staff has qualified teacher status. The setting provides funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tara Naylor

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of an activity with the manager.
- Parents shared their views on the setting with the inspector.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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