

First Opportunities Group

c/o Ashley Junior School, Normans Way, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 5FN



Inspection date

1 December 2015

Previous inspection date

16 October 2008

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

- The highly effective leadership team works significantly well to maintain the outstanding quality of the pre-school. They make excellent use of high-quality staff and resources to meet children's needs extremely well.
- Staff teach children exceptionally well. They use language and activities skilfully to promote children's knowledge and understanding. Children learn extremely well and make outstanding progress.
- Staff interact with children in a highly sensitive, encouraging and caring manner. Children settle very quickly. Children's behaviour is excellent and they are extremely relaxed and secure in the setting.
- Staff make excellent use of a rich range of resources to promote children's learning and social skills. They help children develop a very wide range of skills and exceptional confidence.
- Staff communicate and work with parents extremely well. They make excellent use of information from parents to inform planning and respond quickly to children's emotional, social and physical needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to ensure that all staff consistently promote all children's independence to an excellent level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the pre-school manager.
- The inspector held discussions with pre-school committee members, the manager and other members of staff.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, such as the pre-school's self-evaluation, records of children's progress, and documents relating to safeguarding. The inspector also checked the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views. The inspector also looked at the pre-school's collection of parental views.

Inspector

Steven Popper

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The pre-school manager and other leaders have an excellent knowledge of how to monitor and promote children's care and learning. They apply this knowledge and understanding to meet children's special educational needs extremely well. The management committee recruits well-qualified staff very carefully and uses training to ensure all staff promote children's learning and development extremely effectively. Safeguarding is effective. The staff have excellent partnerships working with other professionals to make sure that children are kept safe. Leaders make regular and excellent use of the well-qualified staff's expertise to help evaluate and improve quality. For example, they have further developed speech and language support so that children make even stronger progress in this area.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff identify, assess and respond to individual children's often complex and substantial needs extremely carefully and highly effectively. They plan children's learning very precisely and give children very well-tailored individual support that enables children to progress very well. For example, during the inspection, staff used a pretend mealtime to develop children's social and language skills very effectively. Staff talk to children in a way that develops their understanding and extends their vocabulary exceptionally well. Children are highly motivated and engaged as they learn extremely well as a result.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The management makes highly effective use of staff to work with individual children and help them develop and make progress. All staff treat children with great kindness and consideration at all times. Children trust staff and are extremely relaxed and at ease. The staff consistently encourage healthy eating and teach children how to keep safe. They nurture children's sensitivity towards the needs of other children and creatures. For example, staff ensured that children treated a worm they had found with great care and gentleness. Leaders and staff take excellent advantage of opportunities to promote children's independence, for example, when washing hands and putting on coats. However, they are aware that this remains a constant challenge as some children arrive at the pre-school needing considerable support.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children respond to the warm manner of staff and engage in activities with high levels of confidence and noticeable concentration. They make outstanding progress from their starting point and learn extremely well. They are very well prepared for the next stage in their learning or school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	151094
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	825980
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	First Opportunities Committee
Date of previous inspection	16 October 2008
Telephone number	01425 629 632

First Opportunities Group pre-school registered in 1992. It provides care for disabled children and those with special educational needs. The pre-school operates from inside a junior school in Ashley, Hampshire. It operates during school term times only, from 9.45am to 11.45am on Monday and Wednesday, and from 9.45am to 12.45pm on Tuesday and Thursday. There are eight staff at the pre-school and all hold appropriate early years qualifications. This includes one member of staff who has Qualified Teacher Status. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years.

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