

First Steps Nursery

347 Lyndon Road, SOLIHULL, West Midlands, B92 7QT



Inspection date

5 June 2017

Previous inspection date

6 March 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the 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

- Staff greet children warmly and children build strong attachments with them. Staff use their knowledge of children to ensure they have an enjoyable day and that their needs are effectively met.
- Staff use their observations and assessments of children involved in activities to clearly identify their future learning needs. They engage parents in their child's learning and share ideas for continuing their learning at home.
- Children behave very well. They learn about acceptable behaviour. Staff build children's confidence and self-esteem. They praise their efforts and celebrate their achievements.
- Children learn about their own safety and how to use equipment correctly. Staff remind children of the importance of not running indoors.
- Managers and staff demonstrate their ability to reflect on their individual abilities and the nursery. They use the information to identify areas of particular strength within the provision and areas for improvement.
- Children learn to communicate in different ways as staff also use simple sign language.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- While staff support the younger children, they do not consistently encourage their independence, with specific regard to mealtimes and during creative activities.
- Although a wide variety of books is available, staff do not provide enough opportunities for children to be able to handle and enjoy books in good condition.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- encourage and support younger children's developing independence
- provide opportunities for children to be able to handle and enjoy books in good condition.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager, and looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tracey Boland

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff are knowledgeable of the signs that may indicate a child is at risk from harm or neglect. Procedures for sharing their concerns with relevant agencies are in place. Children's safety is paramount. Managers and staff take effective action to ensure potential hazards are minimised. For example, staff follow effective routines to ensure the safe preparation of snacks and when serving foods. Hygiene routines are good and this ensures that the kitchen and food preparation areas remain suitable. Robust recruitment procedures and effective monitoring of staff's practice enable sharply focused professional development opportunities to be identified and accessed. Parents are extremely pleased with the service provided.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children's enthusiasm and drive to learn are supported by a well-qualified staff team. Planning takes account of the individual learning needs of the children and ensures that activities challenge and inspire children to learn. Children enjoy being creative. For example, they use different coloured paints and sponges to make patterns and recreate animals from their favourite books. Children's language and communications skills are supported very well. Staff use lots of repetition of words with younger children and support their developing pronunciation skills. They listen intently as children talk about their own experiences and staff skilfully ask questions to support them in recalling their special memories. Children become familiar with mathematical concepts as they fill, pour and empty containers using materials, such as oats and sand.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff gather detailed information from parents during a gradual introduction into nursery. They successfully use the information to meet children's individual needs and plan to support their learning and development from the start. Children enjoy a wide variety of nutritious snacks and meals, and hygiene practices within the nursery are good. Children use a good variety of resources and activities inside and outdoors. They develop their small-muscle skills as they use small tools to dig, rake and prepare soil in readiness for planting seeds. Children learn about living things. They water and monitor plants as they grow and talk about how they change.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. They become confident, active learners and develop the skills needed for future learning in readiness for the move to school. Children recognise letters that form their names and those of their friends. Children confidently write their names and enjoy writing captions and labels to support their art displays.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY464119
Local authority	Solihull
Inspection number	1099596
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	94
Name of registered person	First Steps Nursery (Solihull) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP527924
Date of previous inspection	6 March 2014
Telephone number	0121 742 7078

First Steps Nursery registered in 1998. The nursery operates from a converted house in Solihull in the West Midlands. It employs 26 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate qualifications from level 3 to level 6. The nursery is open all year round, Monday to Friday from 7.30am until 6.30pm. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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