

1st Steps Day Nursery

42 - 44 Irlam Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 4AL



Inspection date	18 July 2019
Previous inspection date	2 August 2013

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

- The nursery is a hub of excellence. Managers are extremely successful at conveying their vision to the whole staff team. In doing so, staff have the highest expectations for all children and their families.
- Children who speak English as an additional language and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities thrive in this fully inclusive environment. Staff are patient and nurturing. They work closely with other professionals to implement outstanding teaching and care. As a result, children are able to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- Managers monitor and coach staff superbly. For example, they use highly effective supervision to set targets to continually develop staff practice. Consequently, staff are equipped with remarkable skills and have an astute understanding of how children learn and develop.
- Managers and staff monitor children's progress precisely. This enables staff to provide specific support or challenge to enable all children to achieve their next steps in learning.
- Staff know children extremely well. They use their exceptional knowledge of children's interests and individual needs to plan exciting and purposeful activities. Children make excellent progress from their starting points.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Parents highly commend the nursery and are actively involved in all aspects of their child's learning and development. Amongst other things, they are kept extremely well informed of their child's progress through an online system.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary. They have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. Children learn about friendships, responsibility and including others very well. Staff consistently praise children for their positive behaviour.
- Managers and staff attend a variety of purposeful training programmes, which positively impacts on outcomes for children. For example, the nursery has achieved a communication award for the effective way they support children's language skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen even further the excellent links with parents and encourage them to provide more opportunities at home to extend children's love of reading.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with managers. They discussed the nursery's safeguarding practice, monitoring and self-evaluation.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including a sample of children's records, planning and assessment records, and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She took account of the views of parents through discussions and written feedback.

Inspector

Adele Banton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Managers are awe-inspiring and lead with conviction. They are committed to ensuring that every child receives the very best start. They continually go above and beyond to provide seamless support to families. For instance, they attend hospital appointments with parents so they can gain an insight into how they can fully support children at nursery. Managers are highly qualified and work closely with partner agencies to effectively support children's welfare. Additionally, staff are extremely well versed in the nursery's policies and procedures. They have an excellent knowledge of a wide range of safeguarding issues and how to keep children safe. Safeguarding is effective.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are highly qualified. They are inspirational and provide teaching that is worthy of sharing with others. For example, they expertly engage all children in language-rich activities for extended periods of time. Babies smile with delight as they copy actions to their favourite rhymes. Younger children's laughter permeates throughout the setting as they hold hands with their friends to play games and sing songs. Older children initiate discussions with staff about the illustrators of books. Furthermore, children benefit from weekly Spanish lessons to further enhance their learning. Staff are highly skilled in providing opportunities for children to develop their literacy skills. For example, older children confidently write their names on white boards to self-register their attendance. Staff are continually refining ways to provide parents with support to continue their children's learning at home. For example, they have use of a home-library service.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

British values lie at the heart of this outstanding nursery. Children learn to embrace individuality and celebrate each other's similarities and differences. From a young age, children interact with their peers with kindness and tolerance. Children know how to share resources and take turns. They listen to each other with genuine interest and communicate with respect. Children benefit immensely from a variety of activities that help to develop their understanding of the wider world. For example, children visit the local recycling centre to learn how to care for the environment. Children quickly develop an awareness of how to manage risks in their play. For instance, babies know to turn and safely crawl backwards down stairs. Staff support children's health and well-being exceptionally well. For example, children benefit from yoga sessions and being physically active as they play in the extremely well-resourced outdoor area.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children of all ages are extremely motivated and keen to learn. They show remarkably high levels of concentration and enjoyment in their play. They develop strong social skills and quickly grow in confidence. Babies are curious and show secure emotional attachments as they enjoy cuddles from staff. Toddlers are inquisitive as they delight in exploring sand. Younger children keenly involve staff in their play as they immerse themselves in their imagination and make a train from crates. Older children are extremely articulate, independent and competent learners. All children make rapid progress in their learning and develop key skills for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY263881
Local authority	Sefton
Inspection number	10109691
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	105
Number of children on roll	98
Name of registered person	Little B's Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP521487
Date of previous inspection	2 August 2013
Telephone number	0151 944 1345

1st Steps Day Nursery registered in 2003. The nursery employs 23 members of childcare staff. Of these, 17 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, and two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6. The nursery managers hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6 and one holds qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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