

Footsteps Day Nursery

44 Cromwell Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3ER



Inspection date

6 October 2017

Previous inspection date

25 July 2013

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

- All staff are consistently positive and caring, and provide a very welcoming and nurturing environment. They build strong bonds with children, who feel happy and valued. Staff are particularly attentive to the care needs of babies and offer them warm affection when needed. Babies settle quickly and feel safe and secure.
- Leaders and staff carry out precise assessments and monitoring of the progress that all children make, including different groups of children. There are successful plans in place to offer further support for children who have special educational needs and those who receive additional funding. All children make good progress from the starting points in their learning.
- Staff support children's communication skills consistently well. For example, they watch the facial expressions of babies closely to help understand their feelings and describe what they see around them. Older children enjoy talking about their home lives and interests, and they express themselves confidently.
- Leaders and staff work closely with parents and other professionals to help provide consistent care and learning experiences for children. They share thorough information about children's achievements and share expertise to help meet their individual needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to offer further encouragement for older children to engage fully in their play and learning at all times.
- At times, staff do not make the most of opportunities to extend children's learning even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- offer further support for older children to help them to engage fully in their play and learning at all times
- provide further challenge to children to help extend their learning consistently to the very highest levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practice and the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the managers, staff and children.
- The inspector read some of the nursery's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager and discussed children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The ambitious leaders work hard to continually improve the quality of care and learning and successfully raise children's outcomes. They work well with staff, parents and children to accurately evaluate the nursery. They have greatly improved their support of children's healthy lifestyles. For example, after training, staff improved children's understanding of how to ride scooters safely. This helped them to encourage more families to walk to nursery. Leaders regularly observe staff practice and provide support, such as through meetings and training opportunities. After recent training, staff added exciting new opportunities for children to explore woodwork tools, helping to develop their strong physical skills and their understanding of how to manage risks safely. Safeguarding is effective. Leaders and staff have an up-to-date knowledge of how to deal with any child protection concerns. They assess risks to the environment vigilantly.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children who have special educational needs respond very well to their one-to-one support workers. They benefit from effective individual support plans and catch up well with their learning. Staff know the children very well and plan a stimulating environment that supports their interests successfully. For example, pre-school children excitedly draw on large whiteboards together, happily taking turns to add their own detail to group pictures. Staff encourage children to talk about their own input and they encourage their creativity and ideas skilfully. Staff support two-year-old children to make their own choices from the wide range of activities available. For instance, children enthusiastically choose to collect autumn leaves. They eagerly talk about their size, colour and how they have fallen from the trees. Staff warmly support babies' curiosity. For example, babies excitedly look at their reflections in mirrors and giggle as they see themselves move.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave very well. They are kind, helpful and considerate of others. Children are sociable and build strong friendships. For example, they happily take turns adding blocks to build a 'house', talking about what to do next. Children are physically active and benefit from varied opportunities to exercise, such as exploring the well-resourced garden. They develop positive independence and enjoy serving their own breakfast. Children learn to respect each other's differences and know what makes them the same and different.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and for school. Babies are very confident. They sit up, crawl and walk from an early age and enjoy games such as rolling balls to staff. Two-year-old children are creative and concentrate well as they explore mud. They pour, mix and squash mud with tools and develop their early imaginations well. Pre-school children pay good attention to detail as they draw and develop the skills they need for early writing. They count confidently and recognise shapes as they play. Children enjoy their play very much and are eager to learn more.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY395529
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	1062288
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	65
Number of children on roll	130
Name of registered person	Footsteps Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905985
Date of previous inspection	25 July 2013
Telephone number	01273 779 034

Footsteps Day Nursery registered in 2009. It is one of three nurseries operated by the same providers and is located in Hove, East Sussex. The nursery is open each weekday between 8am and 6pm, all year round. The nursery employs 16 staff, of whom, 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2. This includes two members of staff who have early years professional status and two staff who hold level 4 qualifications. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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