



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127641

### INSPECTION DETAILS

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Inspection Date | 26/01/2004            |
| Inspector Name  | Linda Patricia Coccia |

### SETTING DETAILS

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Day Care Type   | Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care                    |
| Setting Name    | Stepping Stones Nursery and Afterschool and Holiday Club |
| Setting Address | Gladstone Drive<br>Sittingbourne<br>Kent<br>ME10 3BH     |

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

|      |                                  |
|------|----------------------------------|
| Name | The Committee of Stepping Stones |
|------|----------------------------------|

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Name    | Stepping Stones                                      |
| Address | Gladstone Drive<br>Sittingbourne<br>Kent<br>ME10 3BH |

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

### Information about the setting

Stepping Stones Nursery, After School and Holiday Club opened in 1995. It operates from two rooms in a mobile classroom, on school premises in Sittingbourne. The nursery serves the local area and provides an after school club as well as a holiday club.

There are currently 70 children from 2 to 8 years on roll. This includes 22 funded 3-year-olds and 10 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports 6 children with special needs. There are currently no children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 09.00 to 18.00.

There are nine staff who work with the children. All staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3.

### How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones playgroup, after school club and holiday play scheme provides good quality care for children. The same staff work in all of the groups and get to know the children well. The group provides written policies and procedures for parents and staff. The staff work well together as a team and keep up to date on care issues at regular team meetings. They make good use of the space and resources available. All staff are qualified in childcare and first aid.

The children are well cared for. Staff know about and implement health and safety requirements. Safety equipment is in place. Staff and children regularly practise emergency evacuation procedures. Medication and accident records are well kept and maintained confidentially. Parents are involved in food arrangements for their children, providing packed lunches or ordering school dinners. Children are able to have choices regarding snacks. The group has appropriate procedures in place for children with special needs. A Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) oversees these. Children and their families are well supported. Managerial staff are aware of local child protection procedures and other staff are awaiting training.

The group provides stimulating activities for various age ranges of children. Children can reach toys and activities easily and choose what equipment they use. Toys are regularly vetted for their suitability, including the computer games for the older

children. All children have access to all toys. There are some positive images regarding race and disability, but the group could provide more and make those in use more available to the children. The group has an effective behaviour management policy, which is adapted to meet the needs of individual children.

The group has evidence of positive feedback from parents. Staff regularly share children's development records with their parents and regular information letters are given to parents about activities and events.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable.

#### **What is being done well?**

- The group ensures that the premises are safe and secure for children. Radiator covers are in place. The children practise evacuation procedures to enable them to leave the premises safely in an emergency.
- The staff use positive and consistent strategies to manage children's behaviour. They give praise and sometimes reward good behaviour. Children are well behaved and respectful.
- The group makes good use of the outdoor play area. Staff interact well with the children and help them with physical activities. The children get plenty of fresh air.
- At the out-of-school club, children take part in a wide range of activities, where they can choose their own games and make decisions about playing indoors or out.
- The staff have very good relationships with children. They enjoy their company and know them well. They spend a lot of time with the children playing with them and helping them to learn. The children are very happy and settled.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the daily room risk assessments
- the lost children policy
- the recording of children's arrival and departure times
- the use of books and toys regarding equality of opportunity.

#### **Outcome of the inspection**

Good

## CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

*All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.*

*As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.*

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

**The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

| Std | Recommendation                                       |
|-----|--|
| 2   | Ensure that the policy for lost children is updated. |
| 5   | Increase images promoting equality of opportunity.   |

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON**

*Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.*

### **STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION**

*The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.*

### **STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY**

*The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.*

### **STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

*The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.*

### **STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT**

*Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.*

### **STANDARD 6 - SAFETY**

*The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.*

### **STANDARD 7 - HEALTH**

*The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.*

### **STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK**

*Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.*

### **STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.*

### **STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

*The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is*

*proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.*

#### **STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR**

*Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.*

#### **STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

*The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.*

#### **STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION**

*The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.*

#### **STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION**

*Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.*