



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 106331

### INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 04/05/2004   |
| Inspector Name  | Mary Dingley |

### SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type   | Sessional Day Care   |
| Setting Name    | Stepping Stones Playgroup  |
| Setting Address | Georgeham Village School<br>Putsborough Road<br>GEORGEHAM<br>Devon<br>EX33 1JT |

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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|------|-----------------------------------|
| Name | Stepping Stones Playgroup 1029908 |
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Name    | Stepping Stones Playgroup  |
| Address | Georgeham Primary School<br>Putsborough Road<br>GEORGEHAM<br>Devon<br>EX33 1JT |

## 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 Playgroup opened in its current premises in 1997. It operates from a 'Portakabin' room within the grounds of Georgeham CP School, and serve the local area.

There are currently 23 children aged 3 to 5 years on roll. This includes 13 funded 3 year olds and 6 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The group opens for four sessions a week during term time. Sessions are from 09.00 until 12.00. There is also one session a week during the Summer and Autumn terms from 13.15 until 15.15 for rising fives.

Two full time staff work with the children. The person in charge has an appropriate early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children. Good use is made of available space allowing children a choice of activities and room to move around. However, staff could be better deployed to ensure children are fully occupied during their play. A welcoming environment is provided with children's work on display and a notice board for parents. Children are able to choose from a wide range of resources, but activities provided are not always challenging, especially for older children. All current records and documentation are available and accessible when required. The setting maintains all mandatory policies but some are not complete.

Staff have regard for children's day to day safety and teach them about these issues. However, no risk assessments are in place. This can at times affect staff's awareness of some safety issues, especially during outside play where children are able to play, unsighted by staff. Sick children are cared for appropriately through the implementation of a policy. However, attention to children's personal hygiene could be improved. One communal towel is used in the toilet area. Children are shown respect by staff and taught to respect each other. They are reminded of the affect of their actions on others present.

Children are happy and confident within the setting. They play well together enjoying

each other's company. Their independence is encouraged through the promotion of self help skills. Staff spend time with the children listening and talking to them. However, different organisation of activities will help staff to ensure all children benefit from what is available. Children's behaviour is generally good. They respond to the calm approach staff have to any unwanted behaviour. Staff constantly praise children for their achievements.

Good information is available to parents about the setting and parents are encouraged to help on a rota system. Positive verbal and written feedback is available.

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

At the last inspection the setting agreed to ensure emergency contact numbers are listed for all children; ensure that children can play safely outside; keep individual records on the premises containing the name and address of staff members, any volunteers and committee members, and information about recruitment, training and qualifications; produce an operational plan, expand and make specific the child protection policy, including action to be taken in event of allegations being made against staff and ensure that worn carpeting does not pose a hazard. All the above have been completed. This assists in ensuring children's safety. However, arrangements for supervising children outside would benefit from further organisation.

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

- Children are happy and confident within the setting. They play well together. Staff spend time listening and talking to them. This encourages and promotes their social skills.
- A welcoming environment is provided for parents and children. Good information is available to parents through a notice board and useful booklets and posters. Children's work is on display throughout.
- Good use is made of available space through the provision of a wide range of resources covering all areas of development. These are well laid out allowing children ample space to move around the room and choose their activity.

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

- the mandatory policies and procedures to ensure all are written in line with the National Standards and associated guidance
- the use of risk assessments to ensure all aspects of safety are addressed and hazards both inside and outside are minimised
- the organisation of activities to ensure all children are challenged in their play and benefit from what is available.

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| <b>Outcome of the inspection</b> |
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| Satisfactory |
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| <b>CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION</b> |
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| <i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i> |
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| <i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i> |
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| <b>WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?</b> |
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| <b>The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection</b> |
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| Std | Recommendation   |
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| 14  | Ensure all mandatory records, policies and procedures are written and maintained in line with the National Standards and associated guidance especially in respect of the complaints procedure, behaviour management policy and procedure for lost children. |

## **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.*