



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 200779

DfES Number: 515732

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/10/2003

Inspector Name Paula Hunt

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care

Setting Name STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL

Setting Address CLAVERDON CHURCH CENTRE  
CHURCH ROAD, CLAVERDON  
WARWICK  
WARWICKSHIRE  
CV35 8PD

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Stepping Stones Pre-School

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Stepping Stones Pre-School

Address Claverdon Church Cebtre  
Church Road  
Claverdon  
Warwickshire  
CV35 8PD

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

### Information about the setting

Stepping Stones Nursery opened in 1968. It operates from a church hall in the village of Claverdon in Warwickshire. The nursery serves both the local and surrounding area.

There are currently 17 children from 3 to 5 years on roll. This includes 14 funded three year olds. Children can attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery currently supports a number of children with special needs.

The nursery opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09.15 until 12:00.

Five part-time staff work with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The nursery receives support from an advisory teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones nursery provides good quality care for the children. The nursery provides a warm and welcoming environment for the children, where they are settled and enjoy their time. The nursery is committed to staff development and provides training opportunities for all. The staff operate well as a team to ensure all the children receive appropriate support and their individual needs are met.

The staff give high priority to ensuring all children are included, valued and encouraged to develop to their full potential. Staff take steps to identify potential hazards and reduce most risks, promoting safe use of equipment and materials. Good standards of hygiene are maintained and the children learn about personal hygiene through their daily routines. A variety of nutritional snacks are provided for the children and children are able to access drinking water throughout the sessions.

Staff plan a good range of activities and play opportunities to support children's

learning. They interact well with the children and children show confidence, independence and sustained interest. Staff manage children's behaviour in a very positive manner.

Staff work well with parents, they exchange daily information about the care of the children. Development records are available to parents at all times. Displays, leaflets and folders are used effectively to provide general information about the nursery and parents are actively encouraged to contribute their own ideas and suggestions. Most records, policies and procedures are in place, however some improvement is required in this area.

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

Not applicable, as there were no actions raised at the last inspection.

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

- Staff provide a wide range of activities that encourage children's interest and help them progress while they play.
- Staff have a good knowledge of relevant procedures in relation to safety in the nursery including fire evacuation, ensuring children's safety and well being.
- There are effective systems for managing children's behaviour in a very positive way. Staff use praise and explanation effectively to promote the children's self esteem and confidence. They encourage the children to show care and concern for each other and their surroundings.
- Staff work well with parents, they exchange daily information about the care of the children to ensure consistency.
- Parents receive useful information through newsletters and displays and are encouraged to become involved in activities to support the nursery.

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

- safety arrangements to ensure the children cannot leave the outdoor area unsupervised;
- policies, with regard to reviewing and updating special educational needs and complaints;
- system to share the child protection policy with parents.

#### **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
6	ensure the outdoor fence is secure and children cannot get through unsupervised;
10	ensure special educational needs policy is updated to include the name of the special educational needs co ordinator;
12	review and update complaints policy with regard to reducing the length of time taken to resolve complaints and number of people involved;
13	ensure systems are in place to share the child protection policy with parents.

## **INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.**

### **How effective is the nursery education?**

Stepping Stones nursery offers a wide range of interesting activities to aid children's learning and overall children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Children make very good progress in personal, social and emotional development, knowledge and understanding of the world and physical development; and generally good progress in communication, language and literacy; mathematical development and creative development.

Teaching is generally good. The effectiveness of the curriculum planning, the use of time, resources and the challenges set for children are good. The management of children and their behaviour is very good. Children are provided with consistent boundaries and expectations of behaviour within the nursery. There is an effective system in place to offer support to the children with special educational needs.

Leadership and management are generally good. Much of the success of the nursery is due to strong leadership and a supportive staff team. There is a commitment to ongoing staff development. However a staff appraisal system is still to be put in place.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are provided with comprehensive and detailed information about the nursery organisation and the activities provided. Parents report their children are happy and have made good progress. Regular verbal and written information for parent's results in them being well informed about the achievements and progress of their children. They are actively encouraged to become involved in activities and to share what they know about their child.

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

- Children are becoming aware of and gaining knowledge of the culture and beliefs of others.
- Children are confident and keen to participate in listening to and recalling stories and events.
- Most children recognise numerals to nine and some can count beyond.
- Staff work well as a team under the leadership of the supervisor.
- Children play within agreed boundaries and are beginning to manage their own behaviour.
- Partnership with parents is positive and effective. Staff provide parents with comprehensive information about the nursery and their children's progress.

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

- opportunities for children to link letters to sounds, begin to write their own names and increase their understanding of writing for a purpose.
- displays of letters and numbers and clear labeling throughout the setting.
- increase opportunities for children to select resources independently particularly in creative expression.

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

Staff have fully addressed the key issue from the previous inspection which contributes well to the children's overall learning. " Ensure that children are grouped appropriately for activities that require everyone's attention, particularly at the beginning and end of a session."

Children now come together at the beginning and end of the session in a small or large group dependant on their age and stage of development. Children are not distracted by other activities and are able to concentrate for longer periods at registration and during story time. Issues such as behaviour, fire drills and other important things can also be discussed.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confidently building relationships with adults and peers. They show care and concern for others, express their needs well and are learning to negotiate. They are motivated to learn and show a willingness to try new activities. They play within agreed limits and are beginning to manage their own behaviour.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy and respond to songs and stories and talk about their families and events. Children are beginning to recognise and write their names. Children understand that print carries meaning as they use books. Children would further benefit if labels, letters and pictures were placed around the room to reinforce their learning and more opportunities provided to allow them to practice their writing skills.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

All children count to ten and some recognise most written numerals. Children use numbers, addition and subtraction in most activities, for example 'counting songs' and at registration times. Children use language well to compare shape, position and size. Children were excited to measure how big the marrow was.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children talk confidently about people and events in their lives and take an active interest in their environment. They are encouraged to construct with a purpose and use a variety of natural and man made resources. Children are gaining awareness and knowledge of food, dress and celebrations of other cultures, for example Diwali, Chinese New Year.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Their physical skills are developed through effective use of a wide range of equipment and large apparatus. Space is well utilised and children move freely and safely therein. Children learn the art of sharing, waiting and taking turns. They are developing an awareness that good hygiene and eating can lead to good health. Good provision is made for indoor physical activity including exciting assault courses.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
They are given opportunities to explore colour, texture and shape through a variety of media. Children have regular opportunities to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings through role play, art and design and stories but would benefit from being able to independently select resources. Children regularly enjoy music, singing and playing instruments.	

**Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.**



### **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

### **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES**

- Provide more opportunities for children to link letters to sounds, begin to write their own names and increase their understanding of writing for a purpose.
- Ensure children have daily access to displays of letters and numbers, and clear labeling throughout the setting.
- Provide more opportunities for children to select resources independently particularly in creative expression.

*The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.*

## **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.*