



**Office for Standards
in Education**

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 509576

DfES Number: 581392

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 30/04/2004
Inspector Name Amanda Shedden

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Stepping Stones Day Nursery
Setting Address 74 Eling Lane
 Totton
 Southampton
 Hampshire
 SO40 9GF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Tracy Anne Griffiths

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public 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 Day Nursery opened in 1997. It operates from a converted house in a residential area of Eling. The premises are divided into units for children under and over two years old. Children have access to an enclosed rear garden for outside play. Children attending come from a wide surrounding area.

The nursery is registered for 30 children and currently have 76 children on roll, from three months to under five years old. This includes funded three-year-olds and four-year-olds. A present no children with English as a second language or with special needs attend the nursery at present but strategies are in place to support children if needed.

The nursery is open from 08:00 to 18:00 on Monday to Friday, 50 weeks of the year. Children attend a variety of sessions.

There are six full-time and six part-time staff working with the children. Most of the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level two or three, and two are currently working towards a recognised qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Hampshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).and they have achieved The Preschool Alliance accreditation.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Stepping Stones Day Nursery provides very good nursery education. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals through a range of interesting activities.

The quality of teaching is very good. The staff know the children well and are effective in building the children's confidence and self-esteem. Staff have a secure knowledge of the early learning goals and provide a stimulating environment. Staff plan activities well making good use of the accommodation and resources to effectively support children's learning. There are currently no children with special educational needs or for whom English is a second language attending. There is an effective system in place to provide good support as needed.

Leadership and management of the nursery is very good. Management and staff are committed to the care and education of the children. Staff work well as a team and clear communication allows them to provide a well balanced programme. The management actively encourage staff to undertake relevant training. There are effective systems in place for the assessment and development of staff.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed about the nursery, its routines and activities. The information pack and the parents notice board ensure that parents are fully aware of the educational programme. There are regular parent evenings to keep parents informed about their child's progress. Parents and staff communicate effectively together and share information about children's individual progress and development.

What is being done well?

- Staff plan all activities carefully to focus clearly on the learning outcomes and all adults fully understand the content and desired outcome of these activities.
- Staff work well as a team. They have a good knowledge of individual children and praise and encourage them increasing confidence and self-esteem.
- Children and staff have established friendly, positive relationships with each other, the children are confident, they co-operate well and enjoy spending time together.
- Parents and staff work together to enhance the nursery environment, they have worked together to improve the garden to give the children a safe, interesting and stimulating outdoor play area.

What needs to be improved?

- story times, to ensure that all the story times are worthwhile and relevant to the age group being read to
- children's access to the computer
- opportunities for children to use their imaginations freely whilst undertaking art and craft activities.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. Planning is now balanced across all six areas of learning and the vocabulary to be introduced is clearly noted.

Children are now able to access many of the resources and time is made available to enable children to have free choice periods.

There is now consistency in the type of print used on the displays and children are encouraged to write correctly.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children play well together, they share and take turns. They respond well to adults; they follow instructions and listen carefully to what they are told before responding eagerly. The children and staff have friendly and positive relationships and children feel valued through the staff's effective use of praise and encouragement. The children's behaviour is very good.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Most children listen attentively to stories read to them and are confident when taking part in discussions and answering questions. They learn the importance of taking turns and listening to each other. Children's spoken language is developing well and they are regularly introduced to new vocabulary. Children are encouraged to write their names or make their mark on their work.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children learn how to use numbers in everyday situations and show that they understand size and shape through routine and practical activities. Children show an interest in numbers and counting. They are introduced to the language and understanding of addition and subtraction through practical worthwhile activities using numbers one to nine in familiar context.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children and staff talk about past and present events. They talk in detail about themselves and the world around them. They gain an increasing knowledge of their environment and explore features of living things for instance when growing beans. Children can access the computer sometimes. Most children handle computers with confidence and use the mouse to control and move items on the screen.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children demonstrate a good sense of space and move confidently around the nursery. They are becoming more competent in using tools and equipment. Children have many opportunities to enhance their large and fine motor skills through the range of resources and equipment.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children respond using all their senses to many experiences such as using a range of textures when undertaking art and craft work or when playing listening games. Children enjoy singing simple songs and nursery rhymes from memory and perform the actions that go with them. Children have some opportunities to freely use their imaginations when undertaking art and craft activities.

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

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant issues to report, but consideration should be given to the following:
- arrange story times to ensure that all the story times are worthwhile and relevant to the age group being read to
- encourage children to use the computer more often
- allow children further opportunities to use their imaginations freely whilst undertaking art and craft activities.

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.