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Stepping Stones Nursery  
Stepping Stones Day Nursery  
Gledhow Lane  
LEEDS  
LS8 1RT

Our Reference EY338816

Dear Stepping Stones Nursery School Partnership

### **Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate**

An Ofsted inspector, Duncan Gill, monitored your provision on 17/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

### **Outcome of monitoring**

As a result of our inspection on 20/01/2014, we sent you a notice to improve. The actions you were set are included at the end of this letter.

During the monitoring visit the inspector discussed with you the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. During the visit the inspector observed practice in each room to assess progress in the quality of teaching and planning for children's next steps. He reviewed documentation, including your self-evaluation, planning, observation and assessments and your plan to improve. The inspector also held discussions with members of staff, children, parents, the manager and the owner to assess your progress. He also spoke to a representative from the local authority.

A new manager has been employed to ensure all requirements continue to be met and to embed practice throughout the setting to ensure consistency in the quality of teaching. Staff have received in-house training on the Early Years Foundation Stage and planning for children's learning. Children all have a key person who knows them well and who carries out suitable observations and assessments to track their progress. Assessments are accurate and are used to identify and plan for children's next steps in learning. This has had a positive impact as staff plan activities based on children's interests. The inspector observed adequate deployment of staff and suitable interactions with children to support their learning and the quality of teaching in all rooms was acceptable. Children have appropriate opportunities to select activities and lead their own play and this is suitably balanced with further adult-led activities, throughout the day.

Measures have been implemented to ensure that the premises are secure. Locks on

all doors prevent intruders entering the premises and staff can view who is visiting the setting before allowing them entry. Staff are effectively deployed when children are playing outside to monitor access to the play area and keep them safe. All staff have completed online safeguarding training and the inspector found that they demonstrate a suitable understanding of the signs of abuse and appropriate reporting procedures to ensure children are protected. Children's attendance is adequately recorded by staff in each room.

You have implemented new cleaning rotas in all the rooms and have cleaned the nursery, refurbishing some bathroom areas. As a result, the inspector observed all rooms to be to a suitable standard and clean. This helps to maintain the health and well-being of the children. The inspector observed nappy changing practices to be carried out hygienically. Toys and equipment are in a suitable condition for the children. All staff have now completed level 2 food hygiene training and this has a positive impact on children's health, ensuring the food they receive has been appropriately prepared.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that the setting has taken prompt and effective action to address the points for improvement.

### **Next steps**

The next step will be a full inspection.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your setting. If you have any further queries please contact us on the number at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Nick Hudson  
National Director, Early Education

## Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
safeguard children by ensuring the premises are kept secure to prevent any unauthorised access	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
ensure an accurate daily record of all children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance is maintained	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
keep a daily record of the names of children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
keep a daily record of the names of children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
improve staffs' knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding policies and procedures including how to identify signs and symptoms of possible abuse and neglect and what to do if there is an allegation against a member of staff	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
improve the quality of teaching by coaching and mentoring staff to get to know their key children well and have a clear understanding of how children learn and develop	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development for each child and use this information to plan a range of adult-led and child-initiated	03/02/2014	17/04/2014

experiences for each child in all areas of learning and development

improve the ongoing assessment of children's learning by regularly observing their play, planning their next steps and accurately tracking their progress in order to close any gaps in their learning and development	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
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ensure all staff involved in preparing and handling food are competent to do so by supporting staff to obtain training in food hygiene	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
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promote the good health of children attending by keeping the premises clean, especially bathrooms and nappy changing facilities to prevent the spread of infection.	03/02/2014	17/04/2014
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