

Stepping Stones

Staplegrave C of E Primary School, Hudson Way, TAUNTON, Somerset, TA2 6UP



Inspection date	21 January 2015
Previous inspection date	14 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff identify children's individual needs accurately, through focused observations. Consequently, staff have an excellent knowledge of each child's interests to help them plan challenging and relevant activities, so that children make significant progress in their learning and development.
- Staff use highly effective strategies to promote children's communication and language, including those who are learning English as an additional language.
- Practitioners have strong and effective partnerships with parents and other professionals, and put the child at the centre of everything they do.
- The provider uses self-evaluation extremely effectively. This ensures that staff implement consistently all requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to promote continuous improvement and positive outcomes for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- introduce mathematical language and counting during physical activities to enhance children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with parents.
- The inspector observed children at a free-play session.
- The inspector held discussions with staff and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including policies and staff records.

Inspector

Catherine Holroyd

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Staff are extremely enthusiastic and provide children with fun and exciting learning experiences that they adapt to meet each child's individual needs. Staff motivate and inspire children by joining in with activities and providing new challenges. Children are also given plenty of opportunity to play and explore independently, learning from their own experiences. They are highly creative and imaginative, choosing from a broad range of artistic resources; for example, some made cardboard ears that they proudly wore. Staff promote communication and language extremely well, using visual props and signing to enhance children's understanding. Staff use information provided by parents, including photographs from home, to enhance children's confidence and their feeling of belonging in the setting. Staff document children's progress and achievements clearly and share their progress regularly with parents so they are fully involved in their child's learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Staff encourage children to be independent and make choices from the wide range of exciting and accessible resources. The well-presented playroom features a large creative art area and staff display many examples of children's work. Children choose to play indoors or outside, and visit the snack cafe during free-play sessions. Staff encourage children to put on their own coats and manage their own lunch boxes, and praise their efforts. There is a strong focus on promoting healthy eating. Staff encourage children to carry out daily risk assessments and identify any toys that need to be cleaned, developing their sense of safety, responsibility and pride. Children enjoy regular visits to the adjacent primary school for music and movement sessions. This promotes their physical development and prepares them well for their move to school. However, staff sometimes miss opportunities to enhance children's interest in mathematics and number at this time.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The manager is highly reflective and enthusiastic. Staff liaise closely with other professionals and attend regular training to further enhance outcomes for children. Following in-house training, staff have extended the role-play area, providing children with more opportunities to enhance their imaginative and creative play. Staff meet regularly to reflect on activities and events to inform an ongoing quality improvement plan. Thorough induction training ensures that all staff are very knowledgeable about child protection and safeguarding issues to ensure children's well-being. Staff follow a thorough settling-in process for new children. This ensures that they know each child's starting points and individual needs and can provide extremely effective support from the outset.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY393742
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	822440
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	69
Name of provider	Stepping Stones (SW) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2010
Telephone number	01823 324 566

Stepping Stones registered in 2009. It runs from a privately owned building on the site of Staplegrove Church of England Primary School in Taunton. The setting has sole use of the premises, comprising one large playroom and access to two enclosed outside play areas. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register. The provider/manager is a qualified primary school teacher and holds Early Years Professional Status. There are two deputies who both hold level 3 qualifications. There are eight additional members of staff, five of whom have level 3 qualifications. The setting is open from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, term time only.

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