

Stepping Stones Pre-School



Jolesfield C of E Primary School, Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 8JJ

Inspection date	13 February 2015
Previous inspection date	5 November 2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff are caring, kind and friendly. As a result, children form strong bonds with adults and settle easily. They show they feel safe, secure, confident and happy.
- Staff create a visually stimulating and interesting environment, which helps promote children's learning and celebrates their work. They provide a wide variety of good quality, challenging resources that children access safely and independently.
- Staff challenge children skilfully and extend their learning as they play so that they make good progress.
- Staff have a good understanding of how to safeguard children and promote their welfare. Staff's safeguarding training helps ensure they are fully aware of the correct procedures if they have a child protection concern.
- The manager monitors all children's progress effectively and identifies areas for improvement to help narrow gaps in children's learning.
- The staff team makes good use of knowledge gained on courses to improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not always making full use of all the opportunities to promote children's growing independence when having snacks and drinks.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's independence with regard to snack times and accessing drinking water.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and in the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and one of the directors.
- The inspector sampled children's learning records and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector looked at the self-evaluation forms and checked the suitability of staff.

Inspector

Alison Weaver

Inspection findings

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

Staff work successfully with new parents to find out what children can do and what they enjoy. This contributes to staff's assessment of children's stages of development. Staff observe and assess children consistently and plan for their continuing progress across all areas of learning. Children are keen to join in with the fun learning experiences. They make good progress in the skills they need to move successfully on to school. Staff teach children to solve problems for themselves. Overall, children become confident and independent learners. Staff ask children questions skilfully, which promotes discussion about what children are doing and about their experiences. Children showed good imagination and language skills as they chatted confidently about astronauts and knights. They developed good coordination as they made model castles.

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

Every child has a special adult who focuses effectively on making sure children's care and learning needs are met. Staff teach children how to manage their emotions and they help them develop good social skills. Children behaved well and shared resources readily. They responded positively to instructions and reminders from staff about how to stay safe. Staff carry out good daily practices that promote children's health and safety. Children adopt good personal hygiene routines quickly and see to their own hygiene needs confidently. However, staff do not always encourage children to be independent at drink and snack times. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise and this contributes to their good health.

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

The management team implements robust recruitment and induction procedures. These help ensure staff are suitable to work with children and that they have a good awareness of their roles and responsibilities. The manager observes, appraises and monitors staff competently. There is a strong commitment to the ongoing professional development of staff. Children's communication skills have improved because of increased staff training in this area. Staff gained new ideas of fun writing activities to interest boys. This has resulted in boys developing good literacy skills. Staff, parents and agencies work effectively together to meet children's individual needs. Staff keep parents well-informed about children's achievements. They share identified learning priorities so that parents can continue learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY349515
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	828581
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	29
Name of provider	Stepping Stones Pre-School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	5 November 2008
Telephone number	01403 711766 or 01405 713505

Stepping Stones Pre-School opened in 2007 at the current premises. It operates from a classroom in the grounds of Jolesfield Primary School, Partridge Green, West Sussex. The setting opens every weekday during school term times. Opening times are from 9am to 12.30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays; and from 9am to 3.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register and offers funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs five staff. There are three staff, including the manager, who hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. There is one member of staff who is working towards a recognised qualification at level 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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