

Stepping Stones (Broom) Ltd



41 Broom Street, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST1 2EW

Inspection date

27 February 2015

Previous inspection date

17 December 2009

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

- The quality of teaching is very good. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language are very well supported by staff. As a result, all children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children know the impact healthy food and exercise have on their bodies and are keen to play outdoors using the pedalled toys and taking part in the daily physical education session.
- Leadership and management have a strong drive for the ongoing development of the nursery by effectively identifying aspects for improvement. They ensure staff update their skills and knowledge through regular training to promote positive outcomes for children.
- Managers operate robust recruitment and induction procedures to check all staff are suitable to work with children. They ensure that staff have a thorough knowledge of how to keep children safe, such as how to report a concern about a child's welfare.
- Relationships with parents and other professionals are strong which supports children's learning and development. Staff regularly share information about children's progress and suggest ideas about how learning can be further enhanced at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, some staff do not always give children time to respond to questions, and to share their thoughts and opinions.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise opportunities for children to share their thoughts and opinions by giving them time to respond to questions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked for evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the staff working with the children.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities and spoke to staff and children indoors and outside.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's files and discussed these with the key persons.
- This inspector held meetings throughout the inspection with the manager. The inspector reviewed a range of policies and procedures. The inspector carried out a joint observation with the provider and discussed the nursery's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Karen Laycock

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide an exciting range of challenging activities that promote learning in all areas. Staff interact well with children. They are skilled at extending learning, knowing when to stand back and let children lead their own play. Staff have an enthusiasm for learning and this is shared with children, who are keen to be active, investigate and explore. Children's language development is fostered exceedingly well. This is due to positive input from staff, who continuously promote language development through questioning and the skilled use of toys and resources. However, occasionally some staff do not always give children time to respond to questions. Children freely access resources, such as, pencils, pens, paints, brushes, crayons and felt pens, to draw pictures of what they see and to make marks. This supports their small physical skills to promote their early writing skills. Babies and toddlers are encouraged to explore toys with buttons, flaps and simple mechanisms. This enables young children children to begin to learn how to operate and understand simple technology.

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

Undoubtedly, children are happy in this warm and welcoming nursery. All children benefit from the strong attachments with their key person and develop a strong sense of identity. Staff provide an emotionally secure environment for young babies to actively explore. Children demonstrate that they are confident and developing the skills and attributes they need to be ready for school, such as listening skills and learning to follow instructions as they put on their wellington boots and coats. Children are well behaved and readily share resources. They respond positively to reminders from staff about how to stay safe when using scissors. Children look forward to the morning welcome time where they self-register and enjoy music and dance activities. Babies bounce to the music and toddlers dance with their hands in the air. These activities support their developing mobility and builds their self-esteem and confidence.

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

Managers and staff have a very good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The manager monitors all children's progress effectively and identifies areas for improvement to help narrow gaps in children's learning. In particular, the manager closely monitors the quality of staff's teaching. The manager supports staff's professional development through appraisals, peer reviews and a consistent review of the activities and outcomes for all children. This attention to detail ensures that every child is included. This gives all children the best opportunities to succeed and maximise their potential. Recommendations raised during the previous inspection have been addressed to improve the quality of care and education of the children. Parents speak highly of the nursery and comment 'My child has done so well since starting here' and 'The staff are excellent'.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY396797
Local authority	Stoke on Trent
Inspection number	859825
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	119
Number of children on roll	166
Name of provider	Stepping Stones (Broom) Limited
Date of previous inspection	17 December 2009
Telephone number	01782 283828

The nursery was registered in 2009. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including one with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

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