

Sure Steps Nursery

Hollinwood Children's Centre, St Chad's Centre, Lime Green Parade, Oldham, OL8 3HH



Inspection date

14 April 2015

Previous inspection date

9 February 2011

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 good and at times, outstanding. Staff have a very good understanding of the learning and development requirements and how children learn best. As a result, children make consistently good progress in relation to their starting points.
- Children develop good communication and language skills because staff skilfully extend their vocabulary and use open-ended questions to enhance their creativity and thinking skills.
- The well-embedded key-person system helps children to form close emotional attachments as staff effectively support them in their play. Consequently, children feel safe and secure in the nursery environment.
- Staff have a very good knowledge and understanding of their responsibility to safeguard children, which is successfully translated into practice. This means that children are well protected and can play and learn in safety.
- Leadership is effective. Systems for self-evaluation and targeted action plans in place, ensure that the nursery continues to improve learning outcomes for all children. Staff establish good relationships with parents, other early years providers and external professionals, which effectively promotes continuity in children's care and learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always provide children with opportunities to extend their learning through extensive use of the outdoor environment.
- Staff do not consistently obtain the very detailed information they need from parents before children start at the nursery, so that they are fully informed of children's starting points.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to use the outdoors for learning in a wide range of contexts, for example, by problem solving, risk taking and exploring an extensive range of natural and open-ended materials
- extend the depth of information obtained from parents when children start at the nursery to establish children's starting points in each area of learning, in order to further enrich the planning process.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities in all playrooms and the outdoor environment.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and spoke to key persons, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including a sample of policies and procedures, children's records, risk assessments and evidence of the suitability of all staff.
- The inspector discussed with the manager the arrangements in place for self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of a small selection of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Julie S Kelly

Inspection findings

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

Staff provide babies and children with a wide range of freely accessible resources within a stimulating and challenging, child-centred environment. Children are self-motivated, independent and confident. Consequently, they are well prepared for the next stage in their learning or school. The quality of teaching across the nursery is strong, which means that all children make consistently good progress towards the early learning goals. This includes children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. Children develop good imaginative skills as they enjoy a den-making activity indoors. However, on occasions there are missed opportunities to extend children's learning on a larger scale and in different contexts through even more effective use of the outdoor environment. Staff share information about children's achievements and parents contribute to children's assessments, which ensures children's learning is supported at home. However, staff do not always obtain very detailed information from parents about children's learning when they start attending, in order to gain a clearer picture of children's starting points.

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

The environment is well managed, resourced, and provides babies and children with plenty of opportunities to explore and investigate independently. For example, babies explore musical instruments, a black and white area, and treasure baskets containing a wide range of household objects. Children are superbly supported by attentive and caring key persons, which successfully promotes their emotional security and self-esteem. They benefit from opportunities for fresh air and exercise through daily activities outdoors. Staff give priority to the safety of children and effectively support their growing understanding of how to keep themselves safe and healthy. They are good role models and provide clear guidance to promote positive behaviour. Consequently, children show kindness and respect to others as they play cooperatively together.

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

Staff rigorously follow detailed policies, procedures and prioritise safeguarding and child protection. The majority of staff hold a relevant qualification at level 3 and this, together with regular training, contributes to the good quality provision. For example, staff use their knowledge from training to enrich opportunities and activities to develop children's speech and language skills. In addition, the effective use of the Early Years Professional in leading good practice, results in children receiving good quality care and learning opportunities throughout the day. The manager and staff are committed to providing an effective service to children and families. Robust arrangements in place to monitor children's progress, the quality of the provision and to identify targets for improvement means that the nursery continues to improve. There are effective partnerships with parents and other early years providers. Close links with external professionals within the children's centre make a significant contribution to meeting each child's individual needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY268451
Local authority	Oldham
Inspection number	872724
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	80
Name of provider	Barnardo's
Date of previous inspection	9 February 2011
Telephone number	0161 7858 058

Sure Steps Nursery was registered in 2004. It has close links with Hollinwood Children's Centre who operate on the same premises. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, from 7.30am until 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. In addition, one member of staff holds the Early Years Professional Status.

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