

Steeple Aston Pre-School

Fir Lane, Steeple Aston, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX25 4SF



Inspection date

29 April 2015

Previous inspection date

23 November 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

- Staff provide very good opportunities for children to develop their understanding of the world through a wide range of stimulating activities and experiences.
- Staff support children's free-play effectively, building on their interests and introducing challenges to extend their learning. This approach helps to prepare children well for their next steps in learning and for school.
- Children develop good social skills and staff use consistent strategies to help children learn about behavioural expectations.
- Children receive good support from staff to help them learn about sensible safety procedures.
- Staff develop positive partnerships with parents and work closely with them to support children's development.
- Staff work well in partnership with local schools to help children prepare successfully for their move into reception classes.
- The manager and staff team evaluate their practice continuously, identifying their strengths and areas for further development effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always organise sessions as well as possible to provide more opportunities for children to develop specific skills through adult-led learning and plan these effectively into the daily routine.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of sessions to provide more opportunities for children to develop specific skills through adult-led learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors, outdoors and during a Forest School session.
- The inspector talked to children, staff, key persons, parents and the manager at appropriate points throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager, the deputy manager and a representative of the committee.
- The inspector took account of children's development records, planning documentation, and evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.

Inspector

Gill Little

Inspection findings

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

Children thoroughly enjoy exploring the stimulating outdoor area, which staff prepare well to reflect all areas of learning. For example, children investigate how to balance baskets of pinecones in a large weighing scale, which enhances their early mathematical development. Staff provide twice-weekly Forest School visits within the village school grounds. These are successful in helping children to become familiar with the school environment. For example, children eagerly explored the woods and staff helped them to find materials to build birds' nests. Staff also encouraged the children to count and listen to sounds as they banged sticks and logs together. Staff have responded well to a recommendation from the last inspection to enhance children's awareness of people and communities. New, good-quality resources reflect diversity and staff teach children to count and sing in different languages. Staff make good links with the local community to enhance children's learning. For example, a visitor brought their guide dog and told the children about their work. Staff work closely with other agencies where appropriate. This partnership provides effective support to children and their families, such as signposting parents to children's centre services. Staff are currently developing their assessment and planning procedures to enhance learning opportunities further.

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

Children spend much of their time outdoors. This has a positive impact on their health and well-being. They enjoy nutritious snacks and can help themselves to water at any time. Children are familiar with fire evacuation procedures. They can explain where they would line up and what to do once they are outside. They know that they must wear safety helmets when using wheeled toys in the playground and they are sensible when crossing roads on outings. Children benefit from the welcoming and friendly approach of the staff team. Staff are good role models and promote behaviour well. For example, they give children clear choices.

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

The management team has a clear understanding of its responsibilities and meets requirements. All staff receive safeguarding children training, so that they know what to do if they have concerns. Staff pursue additional qualifications. They attend training and receive ongoing support from the manager, which enhances their professional development effectively. For example, storytelling training provides staff with additional strategies to engage children and support their early literacy skills. As a result, staff are effectively enhancing outcomes for children and supporting them to make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133615
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	840997
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	55
Name of provider	Steeple Aston Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	23 November 2011
Telephone number	01869 340863

Steeple Aston Pre-School opened in 1971 and registered in 1993. It is run by a voluntary committee. The pre-school operates from a former Victorian school building in the village of Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire. It has its own garden area. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children learning English as an additional language. It is open on weekdays from 8.50am until 2.50pm during school term times. It offers morning and afternoon sessions and a lunch club. Sessions for children moving up to school are available on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and include visits to the village school reception class and Forest School area. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three- and four-years-old. It employs seven staff, of whom six hold relevant qualifications.

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