

Stepping Stones Pre-School (Portslade)

Peter Gladwin School, Drove Road, Portslade, BRIGHTON, BN41 2PA



Inspection date

23 September 2015

Previous inspection date

21 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff develop children's personal, social and emotional skills exceptionally well. For example, they speak to children about their home lives and ask them questions about what they are doing and why. Children are encouraged to dress up and role play familiar events, which helps them to develop an excellent sense of their own identity.
- The manager uses self-evaluation extremely well to identify and maintain high-quality improvements. Staff are encouraged to complete training to maintain their excellent standard of knowledge and practice. They benefit from expert mentoring from the manager. As a result, staff have extremely consistent and engaging teaching skills.
- Staff develop extremely good partnerships with families and other early years settings, which helps them support children's care and learning needs very effectively. For example, staff gain a wide range of information from parents, children and other early years providers to build a very detailed picture of children's individual interests.
- Staff support children's communication skills extremely well. For example, they extend children's language and communication development very effectively through purposeful daily conversations and use of sign language. In addition, staff read multi-language books to support all children's excellent language skills.
- Staff are exceptionally good role models to children, providing gentle reminders about manners and positive behaviour. Children learn to take turns and consider the feelings of others. As a result, they respect and play together extremely well.
- Children are very well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Staff plan extremely good activities that are very closely tailored to each child's individual needs. This helps close any gaps in their learning rapidly so that all children make excellent progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop children's experiences of using modern technology to widen their understanding of the world even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took into account the views of children, parents and carers.
- The inspector viewed a selection of policy and planning documents.
- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held discussions with all staff members and the manager.

Inspector

Rachel Southern

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The provider is very effective in setting inspirational goals. They recruit high calibre staff and review their practice thoroughly. This has established excellent standards in practice based on high expectations of children and staff. The manager regularly gains parents' and children's views. This helps her to review the learning environment very well to address the needs of children. The staff team is very successful in monitoring children's learning to maintain the excellent standard of teaching and learning. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities and of child protection and safeguarding procedures.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff and families work closely together to support children's learning and progress very effectively. Initial meetings are held with parents before children start and information about children's learning and development is continually shared. This promotes a highly effective joint approach to supporting children's learning needs. Staff complete meticulous observations and assessments of children's achievements to track their progress accurately in relation to their starting points. They provide an excellent quality of teaching and plan stimulating activities to engage all children in highly effective play-based learning. For example, outdoors children search for 'treasure' and describe shapes, sizes and textures of the objects they find hidden in the sand. This helps children to develop excellent concentration skills, think critically and extend their language skills exceptionally well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff provide extremely sensitive support for children's emotional development. As a result, children are very independent and have confidence to experiment and explore. Overall, staff provide an excellent learning environment with a wide range of high-quality toys and play materials. However, modern technology resources are not so extensive to help extend children's understanding of the world even further. Staff are very attentive to children's health and raise their very good awareness of healthy lifestyles. For example, children are physically active and develop excellent skills of coordination and balance as they use the play equipment outside. They grow fruits and vegetables, which helps to develop their understanding of nature very well.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress in their learning and development. They are highly motivated and enjoy their learning. Children benefit from activities that are tailored to their individual needs. Highly effective assessment means their learning needs are quickly identified and addressed. As a result, any gaps in children's learning are rapidly closed so that children are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY409145
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	822565
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	34
Name of provider	Stepping Stones Pre School (Portslade) Committee
Date of previous inspection	21 September 2010
Telephone number	07963 680201

Stepping Stones Pre-School first opened in 1993 and re-registered at the current premises in March 2010. It is located at Peter Gladwin Primary School in Portslade, Brighton and Hove. The pre-school is open term time only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 12 noon and on Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 2.45pm. The provider is in receipt of early years education funding for children aged two, three and four years. There are six members of staff, all of whom hold relevant early years qualifications. The manager has Early Years Professional Status.

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