

# Little Steps Montessori Nursery School

The Ken Hogan Pavilion, Berrydown Sports Ground, London Road, Overton,  
BASINGSTOKE, Hampshire, RG25 3BT



**Inspection date** 7 October 2015  
Previous inspection date Not applicable

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b> Previous inspection:	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
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

- The manager and staff know and use appropriate policies, procedures and daily practices to deliver all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage to extremely high standards.
- Staff create vibrant and interesting learning environments indoors and out. Children have many opportunities to make choices and build their independence. As a result, children are highly absorbed in their activities and confidently lead their own play and learning.
- Children make excellent progress in their learning and development due to the high standards set by the manager and the dedication of her inspiring staff. Teaching is superb as it is highly focused on gently nurturing children to high levels of achievement.
- Parents explain how exceptionally well staff prepare their children for school and new challenges in the community. They explain how highly skilled the manager is in helping them secure accurate diagnosis and support for disabled children and those who have special educational needs.
- Staff show great respect to children of all ages and are diligent in attending to their needs quickly and efficiently. Children are kind to each other and listen attentively to each other's news and ideas for play.
- Children benefit enormously from long periods playing in the fresh air. The nursery is surrounded by sports fields and natural habitats which children routinely investigate.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider ways to enrich children's imaginative role play and story acting even further.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a wide range of activities across all areas of the nursery and talked with staff and children about what they were doing.
- The inspector reviewed documents and procedures relating to safeguarding, staffing, supervision, risk assessment, equal opportunities, and health and safety, and checked a selection of other policies.
- The inspector sampled a range of children's records, the nursery's systems for planning, evaluation, and exchanging information with parents and external professionals.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and reviewed written communication from parents.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.

### Inspector

Helen Robinshaw

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding**

The manager provides strong leadership to a team of highly experienced and capable staff. Children thrive in their care. All staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn and of their role in developing children's interests and self-confidence. Precise monitoring enables staff to quickly identify and address any gaps, delays, and particular strengths in children's development. Partnerships with parents and outside professionals are excellent. Staff make timely interventions for disabled children and those who have special educational needs, and increase levels of challenge for the most able children. Consequently, all children make exemplary progress in their learning. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are extremely attentive to all aspects of children's health, safety and welfare. They know how to keep children safe and manage any concerns they may have about their welfare.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding**

Teaching is exceptional. Children are highly motivated to learn and master new skills through purposeful play and experimentation. Staff record children's progress diligently. They know how to enhance children's learning and skilfully extend their thinking. Children show superb levels of engagement in their learning and make excellent progress so they are exceptionally well prepared for school. Staff routinely evaluate the effectiveness of their teaching and resources. They recognise the value of enriching opportunities for role play further, for example, by adding more props to encourage children to act out stories. Regular staff meetings, supervisions and training enable the manager to continue to raise the quality of teaching to sustain the highest levels of achievement for all children.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding**

Children flourish. They quickly gain confidence in exploring the exciting play areas, fascinating toys and materials. Caring staff are always attentive to children's needs and interests. Staff work exceptionally well with parents to support children's emotional well-being and help children learn how to manage their emotions. Children's behaviour is impressive. They show exceptionally thoughtful and positive attitudes to others. For example, children notice when friends are shy and ask unprompted, 'Would you like a turn? You can share my fishing rod'. Staff teach children how to manage their own safety and to think critically about risks. For example, children know they must wear goggles and gloves to protect themselves from splinters when they work with wood. Children benefit greatly from excellent opportunities to be physically active outdoors.

### **Outcomes for children are outstanding**

All children make outstanding levels of progress given their starting points. They are self-motivated learners who are curious, willing to persist and keen to master new skills.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY458183
<b>Local authority</b>	Hampshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	931990
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	26
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	29
<b>Name of provider</b>	Brenda Anne Sampson
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable
<b>Telephone number</b>	07786294574

Little Steps Montessori Nursery School registered in 2013. The nursery operates from The Ken Hogan Pavilion in Overton, Hampshire. It is open from 8.30am to 4pm each weekday during term time and for a holiday club in the summer. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery follows the Montessori philosophy approach. There are eight staff, six of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 2 to level 4.

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