

# A Step Ahead at Shoreham

Middle Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6GA



<b>Inspection date</b>	16 August 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- The leadership team is highly qualified and skilled. It encourages staff's continuous professional development, which has helped each child's key person to have a greater understanding in all areas of child development to support their learning.
- Staff make regular observations and assessments to ensure that they identify all gaps in children's learning quickly. Their early intervention helps staff to support and challenge children to help them reach their full potential. Children make good progress.
- Staff use good strategies to manage children's behaviour very well. Children learn to manage their own behaviour and understand how their actions affect their friends.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals are good. Parents feel involved and a part of their children's achievements at nursery.
- The leadership team strives to raise care practice and the early education it provides. It continually researches new ways to improve the quality of teaching and learning to benefit all children.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes interrupt children's play and conversation at key moments. Children do not always have the opportunity to play and talk together, to build on their social skills.
- Staff do not always create opportunities for babies that prefer to be outdoors to explore and learn.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children more time to play, talk and learn together to enhance their social skills
- create more opportunities for the babies that prefer to be outdoors to explore and learn in their play.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors, and the impact staff interactions with children had for their learning and development.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's records, regulatory documentation, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector and the operations manager evaluated the effectiveness of an activity together.
- The inspector took account of the parents' views and comments.
- The inspector held discussions with staff and spoke with children during the inspection.

### Inspector

Gwendolyn Andrews

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The leadership team has robust policies and procedures, and strategies for risk assessment, which staff implement to keep children safe and secure. The leadership team is vigilant about the protection of children and ensures staff regularly attend training. Staff know what to do if they have a concern for a child to protect their welfare. The leadership team prides itself on developing a strong and well-qualified team. It supports and challenges staff through regular development meetings and encourages them to reflect on their practice. Staff confidently make changes to the environment, which has had a positive impact for children's outcomes.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are very motivated and have high expectations for themselves and for the children in their care. They plan for all children based on their interests, which excites and motivates them to learn. Staff track their key children's progress and make regular assessments to plan challenging new learning experiences to help them progress. They quickly identify children that require extra support and have strong relationships with outside agencies that they work closely with to help children catch up. Staff teach children to build on their knowledge of the world around them. For example, during snack time, staff helped children to explore the seeds in an apple and discussed what they would need to help them grow.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The leadership team has introduced lots of positive strategies to help staff to deal with all levels of children's behaviour. For example, staff explain the golden rules, and provide clear routines and instructions. Staff skilfully help children to cope with their feelings. For example, they have created a 'Whisper Tent' for children to have the opportunity for time alone. Staff actively encourage children's independence and support their good health. For instance, they teach children about healthy foods, and to put sun block and hats on when they play outside in the sun. Parents comment that children are using these new skills at home.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children develop well from their starting points. They learn a good range of life skills, such as managing expectations, acceptable behaviour and understanding boundaries. Children behave very well. They enjoy using the new superhero capes to create lots of imaginary play both indoors and outdoors. They are keen and inquisitive and are ready for the next stage in their learning. Children enjoy activities that prepare them for school, such as packing their school bags and dressing up.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY481042
<b>Local authority</b>	West Sussex
<b>Inspection number</b>	987718
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	1 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	58
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	71
<b>Name of registered person</b>	A Step Ahead Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP905756
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable
<b>Telephone number</b>	07980586622

A Step Ahead at Shoreham is one of six privately owned nurseries under the same ownership. It registered in 2014. The setting is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, all year around, except bank holidays. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 14 staff; of these, 11 hold a qualification at level 3, two have a qualification at level 2, and one has an early years teacher qualification.

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