

Stepping Stones (Speedwell)

155 Whitefield Road, Bristol, BS5 7UB



Inspection date

22 November 2016

Previous inspection date

9 December 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are happy, secure and confident. They develop good relationships with their key person and the other staff in the setting.
- The quality of teaching is consistently good. Staff recognise how individual children like to learn and use their skills to support the children with their learning. Staff make regular observations and assessments of the children to monitor their progress, and to close any gaps in learning. Children make good progress in their development.
- Parents are involved in their children's learning. They are able to access their child's assessments and next steps so that they can see what they are learning in the setting. Parents share information with staff about children's interests to inform future planning.
- Children learn about people who are different to them and diversity is reflected well. Even the youngest children are supported to learn about the differences in families such as through the use of photographs in 'family books'.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the arrangements for babies to play outdoors do not support them to follow their interests fully and make choices in their play and learning.
- The management team does not routinely involve staff, parents and children in the evaluation process, to help it decide how to develop the setting further.

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 routines and activities to enable younger children to make more choices about their learning, particularly those children who prefer to play outdoors
- develop the self-evaluation process, taking into account the views of staff, parents and children, to help identify further areas for improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation.
- The inspector spoke with members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Victoria Nicolson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Leaders and staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities, and the procedures that they should follow to keep the children safe. The leaders, management and staff continuously reflect on their practice to make changes that will benefit the children. For example, a new system to plan for the children helps to ensure that the children's interests are used effectively. The leaders have high expectations for the staff and they support them well through regular monitoring and supervisions. Staff are proactive in their professional development. For example, staff have plans to undertake further behaviour management training to extend their skills further. Managers monitor the children's progress well to ensure that gaps in learning are quickly identified and action is taken to support the children with any developmental delays.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff learn about what the children already know through working with their parents to get a good starting point. Staff use the children's interests well to extend their learning. For example, they used younger children's interest in dinosaurs to teach them about 'herbivores' and 'carnivores'. Staff are animated and interact well with the children; they motivate the children to be involved and encourage them to persevere with tasks. The youngest children enjoy listening to songs and rhymes during play, and they attempt to join in with actions, developing their physical skills and understanding of language. Older children enjoy using the computer to play simple learning games. This helps them to learn how to use technology and supports them to follow instructions.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well and staff encourage them to support each other to complete tasks such as finishing puzzles together. Children learning English as an additional language are supported well. For example, staff use children's home languages during routines to celebrate their individuality and to support their understanding of the English language. Children use their imaginations well. For example, they enjoy stomping around pretending to be dinosaurs. Staff help the children to learn about being healthy such as encouraging them to notice the effects that exercise has on their bodies and to recognise the importance of having water after physical activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. Children are confident and eager to learn. Even young children are supported to recognise the sounds that letters make to aid them with early reading. Children are encouraged to be independent at managing their own needs and are prepared well for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY392108
Local authority	Bristol City
Inspection number	1062267
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	60
Name of registered person	Little Acorns (South West) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904196
Date of previous inspection	9 December 2013
Telephone number	01179 658241

Stepping Stones Nursery registered in 2009. It is located in the Speedwell area of Bristol. The nursery opens each weekday from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 15 members of staff working with the children including the manager. Of these, 12 hold relevant early years qualifications with one at level 6, seven at level 3 and four at level 2.

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