

Stepping Stones Montessori Childcare Limited



The Old School House, Village Road, Waverton, CHESTER, CH3 7QN

Inspection date	25 November 2016
Previous inspection date	16 April 2014

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

- The management team has high expectations of what all children can achieve. The provider and staff regularly review their work in the nursery to identify areas for further improvement.
- Children are highly confident and engaged individuals. They enjoy their learning in the vibrant, interesting and challenging nursery. Learning is well promoted both indoors and outdoors.
- Parents speak positively about the nursery and how well staff meet the needs and interests of children. They feel they are kept well informed by staff about children's progress. Parents are given ideas about how to support children's learning at home.
- Children have strong bonds with staff. Children feel secure and settle very quickly at the warm and welcoming nursery. Staff respect children as individuals and promote their well-being effectively.
- Children are motivated, confident and active learners, who are well prepared for their next stage of learning and move to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although there is continuous professional development for staff, it is not focused sharply enough on helping to enhance the quality of teaching to the highest possible level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the support given to staff to help and guide them to raise the quality of teaching to the highest possible level.

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 spoke with members of staff. The inspector completed two joint observations with the manager of the nursery.
- The inspector held a meeting with the owner and the manager and looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery. He discussed self-evaluation and plans for improvement.
- The inspector spoke to children and parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ron Goldsmith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good knowledge of how to identify and report concerns regarding the welfare of a child. Safety policies and risk assessments are implemented effectively to make sure children are kept safe from harm. For example, medication is stored appropriately out of children's reach and the premises are kept secure. Good ratios of staff to children are maintained, so they are well supervised. Robust procedures are in place to help ensure that newly recruited staff are suitable to work with children. Documentation, such as registers and records of parents' contact details, is maintained appropriately. Staff have good links with other professionals. They are proactive in working with local schools to support older children as they prepare to start school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their experience and training effectively to provide children with an exciting and well-resourced learning environment. They plan stimulating experiences to support children's ideas, interests and next steps in learning. Staff fully engage with children. They provide good explanations and respond to children's interests enthusiastically. They give children the challenge they need to support their learning. For example, staff build on children's growing mathematical knowledge by asking, 'Can you bring three more sticks from the box?' Babies show great interest in exploring objects. They reach and grasp for items using their developing physical skills. Staff help babies to develop good communication and language skills, for example, by talking to them as they play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

There is excellent support for children's emotional well-being as children move between activities, rooms and on to school. Children develop very strong attachments and build secure friendships. Staff take the time to ensure children feel very safe and secure. For example, they use the message board exceptionally well to talk about changes in routines and special events. They help children understand when to listen to adults or other children. Children are encouraged to work cooperatively together. Staff are extremely good role models and help children learn about how to keep themselves healthy and safe. The environment is clean and well maintained. Children enjoy fresh air and exercise and when they feed the rabbits, they hop like bunnies. They enjoy nutritious, freshly prepared food that meets individual dietary requirements.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are curious and motivated to learn through play. They display high levels of independence, trust and curiosity. Children are encouraged to investigate and have a go and develop their own ideas for doing things. Children's early literacy, physical, social and communication skills are promoted well. Children develop confidence in speaking in a group and their listening skills are promoted as they take turns. They respect other children and adults when they speak. Children are well prepared when they move on to the next stage in their learning within the nursery and when they are ready for the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY415263
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	1078321
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	58
Number of children on roll	204
Name of registered person	Stepping Stones Montessori Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP902476
Date of previous inspection	16 April 2014
Telephone number	01244 332 270

Stepping Stones Montessori Childcare Limited was registered in 2010. The nursery employs 15 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at levels 2, 3 or 6, including two with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. Out-of-school care is provided before and after school and during the school holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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