

# Stepping Stones Playgroup

10 Station Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1RE



## Inspection date

7 December 2016

Previous inspection date

19 September 2012

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

- Staff establish positive partnerships with parents. They encourage good levels of shared learning. For example, they discuss children's achievements on a regular basis. This helps to provide good consistency in children's care and learning.
- Children develop skills that help to prepare them for their future learning. For example, they learn early mathematics as they use scales to measure weights.
- There are good opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. For instance, they use bikes and learn how to balance and negotiate obstacles.
- The manager and staff work together well to evaluate and review their practice. For example, they observe each other teach, and provide constructive advice and support. This helps to improve outcomes for children's learning.
- Children have a wide range of opportunities to explore and investigate. For instance, they use magnifying glasses to observe nature close up.
- Staff support individual children with additional needs well. For example, they use additional funding effectively, and work closely and share ideas with therapists.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not extend the opportunities that children have to explore marks they make and develop their early writing skills across all learning environments.
- At times, staff do not encourage children to take a more active lead in their learning and choose their own play more easily.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve children's opportunities to explore marks they make and develop their early writing skills across all learning environments
- extend the opportunities for children to take a more active lead in their learning and choose their own play more effectively.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children.
- The inspector viewed the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector looked at the written documentation, including a sample of policies and procedures, risk assessments and staff training records.
- The inspector spoke to children, parents and staff, and considered their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

### Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager monitors the consistency of the quality of teaching well. For example, the staff team has talks to discuss the day's events and the manager provides one-to-one support meetings for all staff. The meetings highlight any training needs and encourage staff to build upon their knowledge and skills. This helps to keep children engaged in interesting learning opportunities. The manager encourages staff to keep up to date with new ideas. For example, staff attend regular training, which supports them to develop their teaching practice. The manager and staff closely monitor children's progress. This helps them highlight any gaps in development quickly and provide individual support that allows children to catch up. All staff have a secure knowledge of the safeguarding procedures to follow and who to contact to follow up concerns about children's welfare. Safeguarding is effective.

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

Staff support children to manage the move to school well. For instance, children learn to do up ties and get dressed independently during exercise sessions. This helps them to become familiar with activities they may experience at school. Children develop good communication and language skills. For example, staff ask them questions to encourage them to think and accompany words with visual signs. Overall, staff build skilfully on children's ideas. For instance, when children showed a keen interest in a well-known snowman character, staff encouraged them to sing the song from the film and build their own snowman using a range of materials. Children enjoy exploring and investigating, such as using their sense of smell when using dough made with berries and cinnamon.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff build trusting relationships with children. This helps to encourage them to settle confidently into play and develop a good sense of belonging. Staff are positive role models for children. For example, children behave well and are polite and kind to each other. Children learn about the wider world and respect other people's similarities and differences. For instance, they look at maps of the world to discuss other countries. Children learn the importance of healthy lifestyles. For example, they are keen to prepare nutritiously balanced snacks.

### Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning. Children gain an understanding of how things work. For example, they use cameras and video recorders and take on the responsibility of being 'photographer of the week'. They eagerly share their photographs and videos with their friends. Children develop good social skills and build meaningful friendships. For example, they compromise, share and take turns as they play together.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	511221
<b>Local authority</b>	East Sussex
<b>Inspection number</b>	1058779
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	26
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	32
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Bexhill Youth and Community Association
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP521725
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	19 September 2012
<b>Telephone number</b>	01424 215455

Stepping Stones Playgroup is committee run and registered in 1987. It operates from rooms in the Bexhill Youth and Community Centre, in Bexhill, East Sussex. The playgroup is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm, term time only. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are seven staff, three of whom hold a recognised level 3 early years qualification.

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