

# Stepping Stones Pre School

Putsborough Road, Georgeham, Devon, EX33 1JT



## Inspection date

10 February 2017

Previous inspection date

22 March 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 safe and secure. They enjoy their time at the pre-school. Children arrive eagerly and quickly join in with the wide range of toys and activities. Children behave well and enjoy good care and support from staff. Staff encourage children to make choices, for example, at snack time, and to put their toys away. Children learn to take turns and share the toys with others.
- The manager has worked well to make effective improvements to children's experiences through increased training for staff. This has led to staff helping children effectively in their mathematical development. For example, three-year-olds counted accurately to 10 and beyond as they identified how many children were sat at a table.
- Staff encourage children's early reading skills well. For example, they help children to identify initial sounds to words in favourite books, and children share and enjoy stories.
- Effective partnerships with parents ensure that staff and parents work well together to meet children's care and learning needs. Staff provide parents with good information that enables them to support their children's learning at home.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently provide the support or resources to successfully encourage children's early writing skills further.
- Although children enjoy using technology, there are few opportunities to challenge their learning further.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the range of resources and staff support to develop children's early writing skills
- provide more challenges when children use technology.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled documentation, including safeguarding information and records of children's progress.
- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children in the playroom and outdoors to check the impact these have on children's learning.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke to members of staff about their roles.
- The inspector spoke to several parents to obtain their views about the service.

### Inspector

Denise Morris

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff fully understand what they need to do if they are concerned about a child in their care. They update their safeguarding knowledge regularly to ensure they protect children from harm. Safeguarding is effective. The manager has an accurate view of how effectively staff support children's learning. She uses this knowledge well to identify training for staff to meet the learning needs of children. For example, recent training to support children's early language skills has improved how staff encourage children's confidence to talk and engage with others. The manager improves teaching well through her regular observations of staff practice to help improve their skills. The manager uses self-evaluation effectively to sustain children's good progress and to identify any emerging gaps in children's learning or in staff practice. She recently identified weaknesses in some children's progress and successfully introduced a new tracking system and training for staff to resolve this effectively.

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

Staff support children well to extend their mathematical skills. For example, they encourage children to find and name colours and shapes. Staff use praise well to encourage children to build on what they know. Staff regularly check children's achievements and use this information to plan effectively for their next steps in learning. Staff involve parents in this process. Staff provide good opportunities for children to be physically active. Children become confident about their move to school. They have lunch with others in the primary school, which helps them become familiar with routines and teachers. Children learn well about other traditions. For example, they often taste food from different countries to help them learn about their differences and similarities.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff ensure children's welfare and well-being. They take good care of children and help them learn how to listen well to instructions. Children develop a good understanding of how to be kind and caring. Staff are good role models for children, which encourages children's good behaviour. Staff expect children to help look after their play room and keep it tidy. They show children how to be kind and helpful. Children learn how to do things for themselves. They show good independence and choose when to play outside. They attempt to put their own coats and boots on from an early age, for example.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. Younger ones happily share their activities with others and are eager to learn. Children demonstrate good early reading skills and identify familiar words in books. For example, they were able to find words beginning with 'c' in a story about a cat. Children are well prepared for school.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	106331
<b>Local authority</b>	Devon
<b>Inspection number</b>	1061165
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time 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>	20
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	21
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Stepping Stones Playgroup Committee
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP517805
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	22 March 2013
<b>Telephone number</b>	01271 890899

Stepping Stones Pre School opened in 1997. It operates from within the grounds of Georgeham Primary School, in Georgeham, North Devon. The pre-school is open four days a week from 9am to 3.15pm during school term times. The setting is not open on Thursdays. The pre-school employs five members of staff. Of these, three have a level 3 qualification and two have a level 2 qualification. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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