

Playsteps Day Nursery

The Hub, Church Place, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 5EH



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| Inspection date | 9 February 2017 |
| Previous inspection date | 8 October 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

- Self-evaluation is successful. Leaders effectively include the views of staff, parents and children to help identify areas for improvement, to continually improve outcomes for children. For example, children's ideas led to a parent and child football event to strengthen parent partnerships.
- Leaders and staff support children and their families very well. They work in effective partnerships with other professionals to support children's specialist care and learning needs, to help children make good progress.
- Leaders have developed effective systems to support the well-qualified staff. For example, staff have regular supervision and team meetings. Leaders closely observe and monitor staff teaching practice, making sure that staff support children's needs well.
- Children behave well. Staff are caring and are good role models for children. For example, they help children understand how to take turns, share, and to be kind and respectful to others. Babies develop close and affectionate relationships with staff and feel secure.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently organise some activities or changes between activities effectively to maintain children's interest and learning.
- On occasion, staff respond too quickly after asking younger children questions. They do not give them enough time to think and answer for themselves before asking the next question.

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 activities and routines to ensure children remain interested and engaged
- give younger children more time to respond to questions and process their thoughts.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the activities and the quality of teaching throughout the setting.
- The inspector held discussions with the leadership team and spoke with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including staff suitability checks, self-evaluation documents, observations, assessments, planning records, and documentation linked to checking children's progress.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation of staff practice and discussed this with the manager.

Inspector

June Robinson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of child protection and know what to do if they have concerns to ensure children are protected. Leaders update policies and procedures regularly to ensure they reflect best practice. Leaders ensure that staff are fully aware of updates to policies. Recruitment and induction procedures are rigorous to help ensure the ongoing suitability of staff. Staff are supported well with training opportunities to update their professional expertise and benefit children's learning. For example, staff have used their new knowledge to make changes to the environment, to support less confident children to feel secure.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They plan engaging activities. Staff complete regular assessments and leaders monitor children's achievements, to plan effectively and narrow any gaps in learning. Young children engage in their play for significant amounts of time and enjoy the activities planned for them. Toddlers relish exploring rice and learn about capacity as they fill and empty containers. Staff work well with older children's interests to plan for their learning. For example, children eagerly engage in pretend space station play. They use information books and colourful displays to learn the names of planets and use magnifying glasses to look at asteroid rocks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support babies and children well to understand about similarities and differences between themselves and others. For example, staff work in partnership with parents to create displays with images of children's families and people who are important to them. Staff support children to develop very good independence skills. For example, babies make independent choices about the colour of the paint they are going to use and they squeeze their own paint from bottles. Older children confidently serve themselves at mealtimes. Children have good opportunities to be outdoors on a daily basis, practise their physical skills and take part in woodland activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills to prepare them well for the next stage in their learning, including going to school. For example, older children develop a good understanding of number; they identify and discuss high numbers they see on thermometers. Children are confident, happy and motivated to learn. All children make good progress. Children are very observant and confidently discuss their discoveries, such as water in the bottom of their cups feeling colder than the area that contains no water. Children's early literacy skills are developing well. For example, younger children learn how to create stories, contributing their ideas to the storylines.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY321164 |
| Local authority | Swindon |
| Inspection number | 1070750 |
| 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 - 4 |
| Total number of places | 80 |
| Number of children on roll | 117 |
| Name of registered person | Playsteps Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP526055 |
| Date of previous inspection | 8 October 2014 |
| Telephone number | 07973 619 406 |

Playsteps Nursery opened in 2006. It is located in central Swindon, in Wiltshire. The nursery opens each weekday from 8am to 6pm, all year round, with the exception of one week between Christmas and New Year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 24 staff working with the children; of these, one holds an early years qualification at level 6, five hold a qualification at level 5, 14 hold a qualification at level 3, and three are qualified at level 2.

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