

Stepping Stones Uppingham



Uppingham C of E School, Belgrave Road, Uppingham, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 9RT

Inspection date

8 June 2017

Previous inspection date

11 April 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

- The manager and staff identify ongoing improvements to the pre-school. Recent changes to the garden have increased opportunities for children to extend their learning outside.
- Staff support children who speak English as an additional language effectively. They provide one-to-one support to help develop their confidence and use of English. The manager provides information for parents in their home language and English. This helps them to understand the procedures of the pre-school.
- The manager and staff have very good relationships with the host school. They take children to use the school facilities and teachers visit them, helping them to be emotionally ready for their move onto school.
- Children are confident and freely select resources to support their play. They are independent and do things for themselves. Children competently put on their all-in-one suits to play outside and serve themselves food at lunchtime.
- Children demonstrate that they feel safe and emotionally secure.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the manager monitors staff's practice, she does not yet critically evaluate their teaching skills enough, in order to develop their practice to an outstanding level.
- Staff do not consistently encourage parents to share ongoing details about their children's achievements at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the monitoring of teaching to critically evaluate staff's teaching skills further and develop their practice to an outstanding level
- explore different ways to encourage parents to share ongoing information about their children's learning and achievements at home.

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 staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector
Hayley Ruane

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have attended child protection training and know their responsibilities to keep children safe. Staff talk confidently about signs that would cause them to be concerned about a child's safety. They know where to report any concerns they have. Staff maintain a safe environment for children. They are vigilant to risks and remove these quickly to keep children safe. The manager monitors the progress made by individual and groups of children. She uses this information to talk to staff about how they can continue to support children's good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use observations and assessments effectively to monitor children's good progress. They plan activities and help children achieve their next steps in learning. Staff talk to children about how to keep themselves safe. For example, they ask children what they wear when walking in the street. Staff promote children's communication and language skills. They ask children a good range of questions and give them plenty of time to think through their answers and respond. Children are confident communicators. Staff encourage children to develop their problem-solving skills and to measure quantity and weight. Children move stones and bricks from one side of the weighing scales to another. They are excited to see what happens and achieve the same weight on both sides. Children demonstrate good mathematical skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a warm and friendly environment for children. They promote positive behaviour and talk to children about rules and boundaries. Children tell staff, 'We use our walking feet and our looking eyes'. They behave very well. Staff ensure that children receive regular fresh air and exercise. Children dance to music and move their bodies, stamping and reaching high and low. Parents comment positively about the relationship staff have with children. They say that staff work very well together and are good role models for children. Staff promote children's good health. They find out information from parents about children's dietary needs when they first start and meet their individual needs.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of funding, make good progress. They are keen to learn and show a motivation to try new experiences. Children develop good literacy skills. They use a wide range of writing equipment and select paint and pens to make marks on paper. Older children begin to recognise letters in familiar words, such as mummy. Children demonstrate good social skills and work with others cooperatively to build a wall using bricks and sand.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY271344
Local authority	Rutland
Inspection number	1064484
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	Stepping Stones Uppingham Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP521731
Date of previous inspection	11 April 2013
Telephone number	01572 821879

Stepping Stones Uppingham registered in 2003. The pre-school employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one at level 6. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It provides out-of-school care for older children.

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