

Stepping Stones Childcare (Cornwall)

Scol Kensa, Carclaze Road, ST AUSTELL, Cornwall, PL25 3AG



Inspection date

16 August 2017

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This inspection:

Good

2

Previous inspection:

Not applicable

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 enter the nursery happily and settle quickly into the range of activities. Staff support children well to make good progress in their development given their starting points.
- The management team includes staff well to help it accurately evaluate and identify areas for further development. This has led staff to attend training to support children's development further when using the outdoor area.
- Staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to support them to meet children's individual learning and development needs.
- The management team regularly looks at the data it collects from the observation, assessment and planning processes and uses this to identify effectively any weaknesses in areas of children's development. The team takes prompt action to increase the support it provides and close any gaps in children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, how staff organise activities during group activities does not consistently support all children to benefit from the intended learning opportunities.
- Occasionally, children cannot easily seek materials for themselves to develop and follow their own creative ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enable all children to take part in the activities offered so they benefit equally from the learning opportunities provided
- make it easier for children to access a range of craft materials to further support their own creative ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children during activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector viewed various documents and forms, sampled children's records of development and the self-evaluation form, and checked evidence of staff suitability.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the provider, manager, staff and parents.

Inspector

Sara Frost

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff attend regular training on child protection procedures and the manager regularly checks their knowledge at staff meetings. The manager and staff have a good understanding of all aspects of safeguarding and know what to do if children are at risk. The management team ensures staff remain suitable to care for children. It conducts regular staff supervision, observes staff practice and holds discussions with all staff so they remain aware of their responsibilities and the setting's policies and procedures. This also helps them to improve the quality of teaching and children's experiences. Effective daily risk assessments indoors and outdoors help staff to ensure they maintain children's safety at all times.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All staff know the children well. They generally support group activities well. For example, children constructing a boat learn to listen to each other's ideas, concentrate and work together cooperatively, building on their imaginative ideas. Staff support children's communication and language effectively through imaginative play. For example, children and staff talked about making a 'bird's nest lookout' on their boat mast and a 'propeller for the submarine'. Staff ask children questions while they play, to extend their speech. For example, they were encouraged to think about what they might need to make a boat. Staff used resources well to support children's mathematical awareness, such as identifying which cardboard pole was the longest. Children talked about cutting the smaller cardboard pole 'in half' to make the oars for their boat.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enter the building eagerly and bring in gifts they have collected for staff on their way. Staff acknowledge their kindness, raising children's self-esteem well. Children's behaviour is good. They play well together, such as in small friendship groups. Staff successfully support children's understanding of respecting each other's views. Staff teach children good hygiene practices. For instance, they remind children why they need to wash their hands before the cooking activity. Staff teach children to use equipment safely and to do things for themselves, such as how to use a knife correctly when buttering their crackers and to pour out drinks carefully.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop good skills for when they move on to school. For example, they concentrate at activities for long periods, playing well with each other and sharing their imaginative ideas. They recognise numbers, for example, when measuring ingredients on the scales. They confidently use small tools that help to build the muscles in their hands to support their early writing development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY489461
Local authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	1021060
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 - 8
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	Stepping Stones Childcare (Cornwall) CIO
Registered person unique reference number	RP534601
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01726 71294

Stepping Stones Childcare (Cornwall) is one of two settings run by Stepping Stones and is a charity-incorporated organisation. It opened in 2015. It operates from premises on the edge of Carclaze, near St Austell, Cornwall. It is open all year round from 7am to 6pm, apart from a week at Christmas and all bank holidays. It employs 13 members of staff who all hold childcare qualifications ranging from level 5 to level 3.

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