

Early Steps Dudley

Bank Road, Gornal Wood, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 2NT



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

20 December 2017

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

- Leaders' evaluation of the nursery is good. They have high expectations of staff. Supervision of staff practice is effective to help ensure teaching is of a good standard and continues to improve over time.
- Partnership working is strong to support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff work with other professionals to successfully identify programmes of support to help close gaps in children's development.
- Staff work extremely hard to involve parents in their children's learning. From when children start at the nursery, key persons work with their parents to identify their children's capabilities. Staff use a range of ways to keep parents updated on their children's learning and to encourage them to support this at home.
- The nursery has recently started to care for babies. They have recruited highly skilled staff who have a wealth of experience and knowledge in caring for children under two-years-old. Staff working with the youngest children provide sensitive and nurturing care giving experiences that help babies to thrive in their development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not plan precisely enough for children's learning styles to fully promote their motivation during group times and engage them fully in play throughout day, specifically after mealtimes.
- Leaders have not yet fully embedded ways to identify and compare the progress of different groups of children to help accelerate their progress even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the planning of children's learning to increase their levels of engagement and motivation further still
- build on the monitoring of children's learning, to identify and compare the progress of groups of children, and ways to accelerate their progress to an outstanding rate.

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 children and staff during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting the manager, deputy manager and directors. He looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Scott Thomas-White

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The providers have a strong commitment to keeping children safe and implementing robust child protection procedures. Staff know these in detail and are confident in applying them if needed. The providers continually update staff in changes to local and national safeguarding guidelines. All staff assess potential risks thoroughly and have taken steps to minimise these. Professional development of staff is having a positive impact on enhancing their knowledge and skills, such as supporting children's literacy development. Staff have used what they have learnt from training to enhance their teaching to help children to recognise letters and their sounds, and blend letter sounds together.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff teach children the skills they need for their next stage in their learning and eventual move on to school. They use their observations of children's learning to provide experiences that build on children's interests and help them to reach their next steps in learning at a good rate. Staff adapt their teaching to promote the learning needs of children of different ages. For example, they encourage babies to explore and make marks in flour to help promote their physical skills. Staff promote toddler's mathematical development successfully. They encourage them to count pastry cutters and toddlers say random number names. The oldest children independently complete small tasks that staff ask them to do, such as filling up a cup with water to add to the dough mixture.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The providers and staff have worked extremely well together to develop a stimulating and welcoming environment. Through their own evaluation of the nursery, they have identified ways to enhance the garden. For example, they have provided even more opportunities for children to practice their early reading and writing skills to support children's learning outdoors as well as indoors. Staff promote children's behaviour well, such as promoting turn taking and working together as a group to complete simple computer programs. The settling-in process is responsive to each child's individual needs and supports them to settle in quickly. Staff promote healthy lifestyles effectively, they show care and attention in supporting babies to try first foods.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning, including those two-year-olds who the nursery receives funding for. Children are confident communicators and they learn new words quickly, using them to describe the textures of dough. They have good mathematical skills and can compare and recognise different lengths, such as long and short. Children can recall their past experiences and discuss them with staff. When they smell the spice ginger, they say it smells like gingerbread. Children enjoy exercising outdoors and developing their physical skills, such as climbing up a ladder to the slide.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY494273
Local authority	Dudley
Inspection number	1031549
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	41
Number of children on roll	41
Name of registered person	Early Steps Dudley Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP534951
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07507984600

Early Steps Dudley registered in 2015 and has been run by the current directors since 2016. The nursery employs 6 members of childcare staff. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for bank holidays and one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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