

Stepping Stones, Lewes Community Nursery Ltd

Southcourt House, Morris Road, LEWES, East Sussex, BN7 2AT



Inspection date

11 April 2018

Previous inspection date

15 July 2015

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 supports staff well. There are regular supervisory sessions where they identify training needs. Staff know how to keep children safe.
- Staff take the time to get to know the children in their care well. They plan a wide range of appropriate activities and encourage children to be independent. Children are developing confidence in their learning and abilities.
- Staff regularly take children to visit their local community to explore and learn more about their world. Children enjoy recalling trips and are proud of the photographs of their visits and learning experiences.
- Parents speak highly of the nursery and the wide range of activities that staff provide for their children. Parents have access to regular observations and photographs so they know how their children are progressing.
- Staff work closely with parents to understand the individual needs of their children. The staff regularly observe and document children's development in a wide range of ways. They clearly identify children's next steps.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, opportunities are missed to stretch and challenge the older children further, particularly the older boys who are preparing for the next moves in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make full use of every opportunity to prepare older children for their next stage of learning, with particular regard to early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and learning in all rooms and the impact that this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed two joint observations with the nursery manager, one in the First Steps room and one in the Big Steps room.
- The inspector met with the manager to look at a range of documentation, including policies and procedures, staff records, self-evaluation, recruitment and training, and safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector talked to children and staff at appropriate times, including looking at children's records and planning.

Inspector

Nicola Edwards

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have a good understanding of how to protect the children in their care. There are robust systems for staff recruitment, induction and monitoring and staff have a strong understanding of the requirements for their roles. The manager offers opportunities for staff to regularly attend further training to develop their skills and knowledge. For example, staff recently completed 'in the moment' training to further develop their skills in observing children and planning next steps. The leadership team regularly evaluates the practice and environment in the nursery. Improvements have been made to the outdoor area, although this is an ongoing project. Staff complete regular risk assessments and checks of indoor and outdoor areas to ensure the safety of children and staff. Staff use effective systems to monitor children's attendance.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know children well. Staff provide parents with clear assessments of their children's learning and development, including observations, next steps and photographs that document their time at nursery. Children independently explore the well-resourced nursery and select toys and activities for themselves to develop their own learning. Children explore the different activities available and take pleasure in sharing their ideas. For instance, the younger children grew their own cress seeds and learned about why they need water, sun and time to grow. Children enjoy sprinkling seeds and filling watering cans. Older children explore colours through vegetable printing and mixing paint. Staff have high expectations of children. They use their knowledge of each child to plan the next steps in their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's social development well. They skilfully offer children the time and opportunity to do things for themselves. Younger children put on their own aprons and fill watering cans, while older children have opportunities to pour and mix their own paint and serve themselves at mealtimes. Staff regularly praise children and encourage their participation. The key-person system works well and children enjoy sharing their experiences. For instance, older children were excited to share their achievements by bringing in photographs, which they shared in show-and-tell.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points as they prepare for the next stage in their learning. Younger children explore their imaginations through a well-resourced role-play area and stories. Older children's communication skills are good and they enjoy exploring ideas. They listen attentively and speak confidently to visitors. For example, they discuss mathematics in the water tray as they test which toys are heavy or light, sink or float.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY459301
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	1131995
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	38
Number of children on roll	68
Name of registered person	Stepping Stones, Lewes Community Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP532382
Date of previous inspection	15 July 2015
Telephone number	01273479699

Stepping Stones, Lewes Community Nursery registered in 2013. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff, of whom 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery is open on Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm, throughout the year.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2018

