

Stepping Stones Preschool

Avonway Community Centre, 36 Shaftesbury Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 1JF



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

16 May 2018

15 October 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

- Children enjoy a broad variety of activities that motivates and interests them. The staff create a stimulating environment indoors and outside for the children to explore.
- Staff encourage children's language particularly effectively, provide interesting physical challenges and include mathematical opportunities throughout the play environment. Children make good progress.
- Staff promote children's safety very well. They carefully risk assess the premises, and are highly vigilant, indoors and out. Staff encourage children's awareness of safe behaviours and enable them to take supervised risks.
- Parents say they are kept well informed of their children's progress and staff are very approachable.
- Staff are calm and patient role models, and they are sensitive to the children's individual needs. Children's behaviour is good.
- Overall, staff develop good working relationships with professionals and parents.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently share ideas with parents to maximise their children's learning at home.
- Staff miss opportunities to encourage children's awareness of the natural world and living things.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop ways to further encourage children's learning at home
- develop more opportunities for the children to learn about the natural world around them and the life cycle of living things.

Inspection activities

- The inspector reviewed the resources and had a tour of the setting with the manager.
- The inspector considered the comments of five parents.
- The inspector talked to the children about their activities and observed them and the staff at play.
- The inspector discussed aspects of practice with staff and reviewed a selection of documents provided by the manager.
- The inspector observed and discussed a planned activity with the manager.

Inspector

Lynne Lewington

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about the welfare of a child. Management supports staff's professional development effectively. For example, attending training and sharing expertise have helped staff to improve their teaching of communication and language. Children's progress is monitored effectively by the staff and management. They identify children who are at risk of falling behind and seek further support where needed. Management regularly evaluates practice and use the views of parents and children to make positive changes to the quality of teaching and children's learning experiences.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff expertly encourage children's understanding, imagination and vocabulary as they participate in activities. They engage children in conversations, for example, as they make wedding invitations and dress up as brides and grooms for the royal wedding. Staff provide a good variety of sensory experiences, encouraging children's creativity. For example, young children explore the texture and smell of dough as they try to create wedding cakes and party food. They listen and move to different types of music and play along to the rhythm and the beat.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle quickly as staff effectively support their emotional and physical well-being. Staff help children to recognise their feelings and those of others. Older children learn the 'golden rules' and remind each other to share and be kind in words and actions. Staff encourage children's independence skills well. Children learn about the importance of healthy eating, exercise and good hygiene routines. Children confidently demonstrate their physical skills. For example, they crawl through tunnels, hop in and out of hoops and climb over and under obstacles.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills to help them when they move on to school. They are inquisitive, independent and articulate. Children enjoy listening to stories and they use books to find information. Children demonstrate an awareness that letters represent sounds and some attempt to write their names. Children compare themselves to the high tower they build with bricks and talk about the large and small sausage rolls they make in the dough. They eagerly count the number of circuits they complete in an obstacle course and recognise the numerals.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511673
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	1128373
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	35
Name of registered person	Stepping Stones Pre School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP906822
Date of previous inspection	15 October 2015
Telephone number	01425653517

Stepping Stones Preschool registered in 1997 and is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm, term time only. Children may attend for a half day or a full day. The pre-school receives early education funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are eight members of staff working with the children, including two supervisors. Of these, six members of staff hold relevant qualifications at level 3 and one holds a relevant early years degree.

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

