

Step By Step Nursery

15 Chandler Street, LONDON, E1W 2QL



Inspection date	8 June 2018
Previous inspection date	25 May 2016

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 provider values the staff team and encourages their professional development. She reviews the quality of teaching and provides training opportunities to help staff improve their skills. For example, recent training has helped staff to promote children's language development.
- Staff use assessments effectively to identify children's next steps and to plan purposeful opportunities to build on their learning. Children progress well from their starting points.
- Staff encourage children to look at books and they read to them frequently to promote their early reading skills.
- Staff actively engage parents in their children's care and learning. They exchange a wealth of information with parents about their child's care. Staff also encourage parents to share their observations of children's achievements at home and to contribute to their assessment reports.
- The provider and staff have addressed the recommendations raised at the last inspection well. They know the nursery's current strengths and identify targets to continuously raise the standards of care and outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss opportunities to extend children's understanding of mathematical vocabulary during activities and daily routines.
- While staff help older children to gain an understanding of diversity, they do not support younger children as effectively as possible to develop a similar awareness.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities to enhance children's early mathematical understanding, in particular, mathematical vocabulary
- increase opportunities to develop younger children's understanding of the wider community, including disability and other community languages.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interaction between staff and children during activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held discussions with the provider/manager and spoke to the staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the deputy manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including staff records, assessment reports, accident records and the record of risk assessment.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and took their views into account.

Inspector

Jennifer Liverpool

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff conduct daily risk assessments indoors and outdoors to minimize hazards. The provider, who is also the manager, maintains relevant documents, such as accident records, which they regularly review to identify and act on any emerging trends to help ensure the safety of children. Staff know the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child's welfare. The provider has robust recruitment and vetting processes in place to make sure all staff, including cover staff, are suitable to work with children. The provider organises the deployment of staff efficiently throughout the nursery to respond to children's needs and to ensure they are well supervised. The provider regularly reviews the quality of the provision. She obtains staff and parents' views to help make decisions on what the nursery needs to do next to continuously improve outcomes for children. Parents spoken to during the inspection say they are very happy with their children's care and the progress they make.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The provider regularly monitors and tracks children's progress, and takes swift action to close any emerging gaps in children's learning. Staff promote children's communication skills well. Group activities, such as circle time, singing, story sessions and role play provide opportunities for children to listen carefully, learn new words and join in with simple conversations. Staff challenge children to investigate. They help children learn to set up their own explorations to find out more about the flow of water and encourage their interest about the natural environment. Staff make good use of guidance from other professionals to meet the needs of individual children and they link well with schools to support children's transition on to school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The key-person system works well. Staff arrange settling-in routines with parents, according to their child's needs, to support their emotional well-being. Babies and young children develop a healthy dependence on their key persons who are receptive to their individual needs. Staff consistently teach children about the rules of the nursery to promote good behaviour. Children respond well to these requests and learn to treat each other kindly. Staff promote children's good health well. Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow good hygiene practices and they eat nutritious food. Staff support babies to learn to feed themselves. Young children drink from a cup without spilling and older children serve their own meals.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. Babies and toddlers join in with familiar rhymes, and older children can sing some rhymes from memory. Children know how to keep themselves safe in their play. They remind others to walk nicely so that they do not fall. Young children enjoy the experience of making marks and all children enjoy being read to. Older children begin to write some of the letters in their names. Children gain important skills that help prepare them for the next stage of their development and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY371767
Local authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	1137350
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	66
Name of registered person	Step By Step Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP910352
Date of previous inspection	25 May 2016
Telephone number	02075532880

Step by Step Nursery registered in 2008. It operates within the Wapping Children's Centre in Wapping, in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6.30pm all year round. The provider receives funding to offer free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The provider employs 23 members of staff, of whom 21 staff hold relevant childcare qualifications from level 2 to level 6.

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