

Derwent Stepping Stones



Derwent Stepping Stones, St. Marks Road, DERBY DE21 6AH

Inspection date	16 August 2018
Previous inspection date	4 December 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- Leaders at the nursery foster a culture of high expectation and lead a dedicated staff team, working together to ensure every child enjoys their time at the nursery.
- The nursery offers a welcoming and homely environment for children. Parents spoken with on the day of the inspection praised the high standards of care and learning provided by staff.
- Children get off to the best start possible. Parents are asked about children's interests, routines and prior learning as part of induction arrangements. Children have a designated key person to help them settle into the nursery and to help to plan for their future learning.
- Children enjoy fresh air and exercise outside and enjoy a range of nutritious snacks and meals during the day. They are gaining an understanding of some factors that contribute to healthy lifestyles.
- The quality of teaching is consistently strong. Staff know how to nurture a positive attitude towards learning and children are very engaged as they play and explore.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The leadership team has not yet identified effective ways to obtain all parents' views of the nursery as part of the self-evaluation process.
- On occasions, staff do not make the most of opportunities to encourage children to think about problems and discuss answers and solutions with their friends.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- identify and implement methods of self-evaluation that include all parents' views when prioritising future improvements
- make the most of opportunities to encourage children to think about problems and find different ways of completing tasks for themselves and in partnership with other children.

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 held a meeting with the management team. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery. The inspector also discussed the nursery's self-evaluation.
- The inspector sampled a range of other documentation, including the learning and development records of children, the nursery's policies and procedures and risk assessments.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with a member of the management team.
- The inspector spoke with children and a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Julie Dale

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the nursery's policies and procedures. They are aware of their responsibilities to keep children safe and well. Staff are well qualified in childcare and this helps improve outcomes for children. Robust arrangements are in place for the recruitment, supervision and professional development of staff. Nursery leaders have introduced a series of observations to monitor the quality of teaching and learning to help raise the standards to consistently good levels. Self-evaluation of the nursery provision includes the views of staff, children and some parents. Nursery leaders have recognised that they need to seek further ways to engage all parents in the process.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff assess children's achievements accurately and know their key children well. They make regular observations of what children can do and plan suitably challenging activities to support their good development. Children play confidently in a stimulating, well-organised, interesting environment that helps to support all areas of learning. Children are keen to explore the resources and concentrate well. They enjoy imaginative experiences, such as while pretending to be builders in the outdoor role-play area. They learn to think of ideas and create a story while they play. Staff teach children well. For instance, they successfully adapt their interactions, including using gestures to support children's understanding. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities receive effective support as staff work well with other agencies.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are excellent role models and demonstrate how they value the views of children. Children develop strong bonds with staff and show they feel safe and secure within the nursery. Staff promote children's personal and social skills effectively. They encourage children to consider how their behaviour makes others feel and to treat other people with respect. Staff use praise consistently to support children's confidence and self-esteem. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. Staff promote good hygiene routines and actively teach children how eating a healthy diet is good for them. Children develop good levels of independence. Staff provide good opportunities to help children learn about diversity. For instance, they share images and stories that reflect and value other cultures.

Outcomes for children are good

All children attending the setting are making good progress in their learning and development from their individual starting points. Children develop appropriate social skills for their ages and learn more about the world around them. They can listen, follow instructions and take turns. Children are well prepared for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY330097
Local authority	Derby
Inspection number	10062439
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	128
Number of children on roll	163
Name of registered person	Derwent Stepping Stones Nursery and Community Training Centre
Registered person unique reference number	RP906919
Date of previous inspection	4 December 2015
Telephone number	01332 372245

Derwent Stepping Stones registered in 2006. It is situated in purpose-built premises and is managed by a committee. The nursery employs 30 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 7, 20 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and four at level 2. The nursery is open from 7.30am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. The nursery provides early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children in receipt of nursery education grant and early years pupil premium.

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