

Stepping Stones Day Nursery

17 Whitehall Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 6AF



Inspection date

31 August 2018

Previous inspection date

12 May 2016

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

- Staff provide a range of experiences to capture children's interests and promote their next steps in learning. All children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children are happy in the setting and they form strong emotional attachments with the staff. They show good levels of confidence, eagerly explore the environment and happily take part in activities. Children behave well.
- Staff promote children's physical well-being and understanding of the natural world effectively. For example, they plan activities where children explore their natural surroundings and learn about growth.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff provide support to help parents continue their children's learning at home. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress.
- The manager has a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the nursery through effective evaluation. She makes positive use of the views of children, staff and parents to make improvements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not promptly identify and support older children who are not highly engaged and challenged in their play and learning.
- Occasionally, staff do not use their observations to extend children's learning and development at a higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide further support for children to encourage them to be even more engaged and motivated to play and learn at all times through the activities provided
- strengthen the use of observations to consistently enhance children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with children, staff and the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including policies, children's records and staff suitability checks.
- The inspector spoke with parents on the day and took account of their written views.

Inspector
Marvet Gayle

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures that policies and procedures are regularly updated to safeguard children's welfare. Staff attend regular safeguarding training. They have a thorough understanding of procedures to follow if they have concerns about children's welfare. Safer recruitment processes are secure. For example, the manager checks and verifies the suitability of all staff working with children. Staff have improved their practice since the last inspection. For example, they use questions well to support children to express their views and ideas, and extend their language skills. The manager monitors the quality of teaching and children's development, and identifies gaps in learning. She has regular team meetings and supervision sessions with staff. She provides regular training opportunities to support their practice and raise outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff assess children's progress and plan an exciting environment that supports children's learning well. They ensure children have easy access to resources to encourage their independence. For example, children enjoy exploring with dough, sand, water and dolls to encourage their imaginative skills. Staff support children's speaking abilities well. For example, older children confidently and audibly explain their play. Staff provide opportunities for children to enjoy looking at books and practise their early writing skills. They provide many interesting experiences for children to identify shapes, colours and numerals. Staff ensure the environment caters for children's learning needs well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide children with opportunities to explore a wide range of cultures and celebrate various festivals. This helps children learn to respect each other and embrace similarities and differences. Staff work closely with parents to support children's individual needs. For example, staff take time to get to know the children and build their self-esteem well. Staff are good role models and offer clear guidance on expectations for behaviour. For example, they effectively support children's understanding of good manners and ways to keep themselves safe. Staff teach children how to stay healthy, such as by encouraging them to be active and to develop good hygiene practices. Staff encourage children to care for their environment, such as to tidy away resources.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are eager and motivated to learn. They develop the skills they need for their eventual moves to school. Younger children happily explore activities. Older children begin to use their mathematical skills as they play. For example, they count in sequence. Children hop, jump and walk with good balance. They learn to manage their personal care needs well. Children develop good social skills. For example, they play cooperatively, share and take turns.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY298689
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	10062364
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	25
Number of children on roll	9
Name of registered person	Quinary Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP525207
Date of previous inspection	12 May 2016
Telephone number	0208 689 8001

Stepping Stones Day Nursery opened in 2004 and is located in Thornton Heath, in the London Borough of Croydon. The nursery opens each weekday from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year, and is closed on public bank holidays. It receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. There are five members of staff who work with the children, including the manager. Of these, four staff hold relevant early years qualifications. The manager has early years teacher status and the owner has early years professional status.

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