

Stepping Stones Pre-School

Bridport United Church Hall, East Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3LJ



Inspection date

16 January 2019

Previous inspection date

28 September 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

This provision is good

- Children make good progress from the start. Staff monitor and assess children's development accurately to plan and support their learning well.
- Staff are good role models who help children develop positive attitudes and good social skills. Children behave well. They learn to share, take turns, help one another and make friends.
- Staff maintain safe and secure environments and supervise children closely to help keep them safe from harm. Staff teach children how to identify and avoid danger. For instance, children help to carry out simple risk assessments with staff and learn about road safety on walks.
- The manager supports staff development successfully to build on staff's skills and to improve outcomes for children. For example, staff use ideas from network meetings and research to develop activities to encourage children's fine motor skills, such as using tweezers to pick up small objects.
- Staff miss opportunities to help older children develop good personal hygiene practices in some areas, such as when they have coughs and colds.
- On occasions, staff do not support some younger children's ideas in their pretend play to encourage their imaginations further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help older children to learn more about managing their personal hygiene well
- provide more support for younger children to develop their imaginations in play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching in the playroom.
- The inspector sampled children's assessment records and planning documentation, and talked to children at appropriate times.
- The inspector assessed the suitability of staff and discussed with management their knowledge and understanding of the early years foundation stage.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector discussed the effectiveness of an activity with the manager.

Inspector

Bridget Copson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have a clear understanding of their child protection responsibilities and the risks to children. This includes the correct procedures to follow in the event of any concerns about a child to safeguard their welfare. The management team follow robust vetting procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. The manager evaluates the quality of the pre-school provision effectively, including the progress made by different groups of children and staff's interactions with children. This helps to maintain good standards of care and to drive ongoing improvements. For example, they have developed successful systems to work closely with parents to assess and support children's learning together. They provide meetings with parents from the start to discuss and plan children's development, and sessions to learn more about supporting children's progress at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well and provide an exciting range of activities to support their interests and next steps for learning. Staff use good teaching skills to motivate children to join in, and adapt challenges skilfully to meet children's developmental needs. For example, staff read familiar stories to children, pausing for older children to predict what will happen next, to answer questions and to listen for rhyming words. Staff involve younger children well, such as using puppets and including actions for them to join in with. This helps to support children's listening, language and literacy skills effectively. Staff encourage children's mathematical development successfully. For instance, they help children to compare the length and size of objects, to count and to recognise numerals.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff develop warm and trusting relationships with children to help them feel secure and able to explore confidently. Staff organise group activities efficiently to maintain younger children's interest, and provide smaller age-related group times, such as listening activities for older children to concentrate more. Children benefit from lots of activities to develop their physical skills. For instance, they join in action songs, music and movement and enjoy outdoor play most days. Staff create fun activities to help children learn about natural life, such as bringing in lots of autumn leaves for children to explore and sweep up in the outdoor play area and growing seasonal plants. They provide activities to explore the diverse lives and beliefs of others from around the world.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need for their future learning that help prepare them for school. Children communicate confidently. Older children engage for long periods in their play. Children learn to think and overcome challenges well, such as finding ways to balance the models they build from boxes. They learn to manage tasks themselves from a young age. For instance, children of all ages wash their hands and pour their own drinks at snack time. They have many opportunities to draw and write, and older children learn to write their names correctly, such as when they label their creative work.

Setting details

Unique reference number	139323
Local authority	Dorset
Inspection number	10062625
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	25
Name of registered person	Bridport United Church Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519801
Date of previous inspection	28 September 2015
Telephone number	0777 3516481

Stepping Stones Pre-School registered in 1992. It is located in Bridport, Dorset. The pre-school is open during term time only from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The pre-school employs six members of staff, of whom four hold early years qualifications at level 3.

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.

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