

Stepping Stones RAF Leeming

Royal Air Force, Leeming, NORTHALLERTON, North Yorkshire DL7 9NJ



Inspection date	18 March 2019
Previous inspection date	9 February 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Professional development is a high priority. The manager encourages staff to enhance their professional qualifications. Staff access a wide variety of training to update their knowledge of how to keep children safe and to enhance the opportunities they offer to children.
- Children make good progress in their learning and development. Staff use their observations of children as they play to plan for their future learning. They complete accurate assessments of children's development.
- Children particularly enjoy outdoor play where they explore and use their imagination using a variety of stimulating resources. For instance, older children join together to design their own obstacle course.
- Staff anticipate babies' needs well. They respond to babies who show they want a cuddle by picking them up and cuddling them in.
- Children are extremely happy and feel emotionally secure. Staff acknowledge children's efforts and achievements with genuine praise. This develops children's confidence and self-esteem.
- Children are well supported to learn to manage risk. For instance, young children are encouraged to climb the steps on the slide. Members of staff closely supervise.
- Staff have developed strong links with other professionals to help support children's individual needs.
- Parents speak highly of the nursery. They are very complimentary about the way their children's learning and development are supported.
- Information is not gathered about children's abilities on entry to enable planning for learning and development from the outset.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gather more information about children's prior learning and experiences on entry to help staff plan more precisely and to provide opportunities for children to achieve at the highest levels.

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the deputy manager of the nursery.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Denise Charge

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff talk confidently about the signs and symptoms of abuse and where to report concerns about children's welfare. Staff complete safeguarding training to keep their knowledge up to date. Staff keep the premises secure and all children are registered on entry. The manager implements robust recruitment procedures to ensure the suitability of those working with children. Performance management evaluates staff practice and identifies any development needs. The manager assesses the provision well and make changes to enhance the opportunities offered to children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children's communication and language skills are well supported. Staff speak clearly and give children time to respond. Staff use the correct pronunciation when they talk to children. They extend children's vocabulary as they link words to movements as children play. Children have a wealth of opportunities to develop their mark-making skills. They enjoy painting with vegetables and make marks in cornflour with their fingers. Children delight in showing their skills of counting as they match marbles to numbers. Children show high levels of imagination and enjoy acting out real-life experiences. For instance, children happily play at the mud kitchen making cakes. They show a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe as they talk about needing to cover their hands before taking the cakes out of the oven.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thrive in this well-resourced, stimulating learning environment. Older children rush into the nursery, keen for their learning to commence. Children are motivated and demonstrate a can-do attitude to trying different experiences. For instance, babies happily engage in sensory exploration as they confidently handle sticky textures. Children make independent choices and are exceptionally self-assured to lead their own learning. Children have an excellent understanding of how to engage adults in their play. For instance, babies choose books and hand them to adults who begin to read the stories. Older children show high levels of care and consideration as they carefully join babies playing with sand. Children show good self-care skills as they wash their hands before eating. They happily clear away their own plates, beakers and cutlery after snack. Children's behaviour is excellent, which helps to create a happy atmosphere for all.

Outcomes for children are good

Older children quickly learn to recognise their names. They sing the letters of their names as they play. They show high levels of confidence when meeting visitors to the nursery. Children learn about different cultures and develop their awareness of the wider world. They make good progress in their development and learn a wide range of skills that prepare them well for their future learning, including their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	400084
Local authority	North Yorkshire
Inspection number	10072878
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	121
Number of children on roll	116
Name of registered person	R.A.F. Leeming Childcare Charity Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP518634
Date of previous inspection	9 February 2016
Telephone number	01677 457592

Stepping Stones RAF Leeming nursery registered in 1987. The nursery employs 18 members of childcare staff. Of these, 12 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, and five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for the week between Christmas and New Year and bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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