

Inspection of Stepping Stones Pre-School

Leverington Cp School, 104 Church Road, Leverington, WISBECH, Cambridgeshire
PE13 5DE

Inspection date:

28 November 2019

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children are happy and enjoy their time playing and learning. They have strong, trusting bonds with staff. Even those children who are reserved when they first arrive soon settle and show confidence in their surroundings. Children join in with group activities and remember they need to have 'listening ears' and 'looking eyes'. Children follow instructions well, and this is especially evident as they undertake stretching exercises to help prepare them for a busy and active morning.

Children are imaginative, drawing on experiences they have had elsewhere. For example, they pretend to make cakes and serve customers in a bakery shop. Children's mathematical skills are promoted well as they recognise differences and similarities during sorting activities. They talk about the difference in the size of cutlery used during snack, accurately using mathematical language. Children's communication skills are boosted effectively by staff who skilfully model good interactions and give children the time they need to respond. Children benefit from the stimulating activities available both inside and outside. They learn about the natural world during regular activities in a local woodland and by observing creatures and growing plants in the pre-school garden.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Ofsted has not been informed of all individuals who form the management committee. Some have been in post for a considerable time. While Disclosure and Barring Service checks have been completed, the failure to notify Ofsted means that further background checks have not been undertaken. Therefore, the suitability of these individuals has not been fully established. The risk to children is minimal as these individuals do not have unsupervised access to children and are not privy to confidential information.
- Children are busy and active learners. They enjoy the company of staff as they play, and benefit from the good level of teaching interaction. Children can choose their own playthings. However, they are not always confident enough to find resources and organise themselves, for example at the craft table. Therefore, some children miss opportunities to be independently creative and explore different materials, such as paint.
- Staff provide a well-planned and stimulating environment. They continually refresh what is on offer, but ensure some aspects remain the same so children feel secure in their surroundings. Staff help children become independent in their self-care and are skilled at supporting their growing awareness of appropriate behaviours. Children are learning to share and take turns.
- The manager shows great enthusiasm for her role and this has a positive impact on the staff team. Together they continually reflect on their practice and strive to provide the very best early years experiences for all children. The manager

supervises staff well and gives clear guidance to help them improve their skills. Teaching is consistently good.

- Staff have very good procedures to help children settle in the pre-school. Children are familiar with key staff prior to starting and can be sure of finding playthings of interest when attending for the first time. This is because staff are diligent in gathering plenty of information from parents about children's interests and what they already know and can do.
- Partnership working is embedded in practice. Staff work collaboratively with other professionals and this means children's development and well-being are promoted effectively.
- Staff have a good knowledge of how to support children's development through play. They have a carefully considered curriculum and know how to prepare children for their next stage in learning. Children's communication skills are particularly well enhanced during planned activities, sparking delightful interactions and conversations.
- Staff have a high regard for children's safety. They review risk assessments and make changes to the environment when necessary.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection matters. They know how to recognise and report any concerns about children in their care. Staff receive regular training and discuss wider safeguarding issues during staff meetings. Effective recruitment procedures are used to ensure only the most suitable staff are employed to work with the children. Staff ensure the environment is safe and secure for children. They are particularly vigilant as children leave the pre-school, to ensure they only leave in the company of known adults.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
inform Ofsted of all members of the management committee in a timely manner.	01/01/2020

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

- enhance opportunities for children to explore their imagination and express their ideas.

Setting details

Unique reference number	509754
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10113224
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 to 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	Leverington Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP519089
Telephone number	01945 467576
Date of previous inspection	24 November 2015

Information about this early years setting

Stepping Stones Pre-School registered in 1996. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. All hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The pre-school opens term time only. Sessions are from 8.30am to 12.45pm on Monday, and from 8.30am to 3.15pm on Tuesday to Friday. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the pre-school with the manager and discussed how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector spoke with staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed staff's teaching and their interactions with children.
- The manager and the inspector observed and evaluated an activity together.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of the committee members, the manager and staff.

We carried out this inspection 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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