

# Stepping Stones Nursery

73-75 Birchwood Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 4QN



<b>Inspection date</b>	4 February 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the 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

- Teaching is of a consistently good quality. Staff plan activities that interest children. As a result, children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children learn to respect and value each other. They use well-developed social skills, and consistently behave well.
- The management team works hard to drive improvement forward. They evaluate the nursery well and make focused and relevant improvements that have a positive impact on experiences for children.
- The manager uses regular staff supervision and appraisal meetings to monitor staff performance effectively. Training is well considered and specific to the professional development of each member of staff. This has a very positive impact on outcomes for children. For example, staff provide a wide variety of sensory play opportunities for children, following recent training.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have formed strong relationships with parents, although they do not help parents to continue to support their children's learning at home as well as possible.
- Staff in the pre-school room do not always use story time to its full potential, to ensure they promote all children's interest and engagement.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with parents to help them to understand how to better support children's learning at home
- review the organisation of story time in the pre-school room, to help engage all children and maintain their interest and focus, to promote their learning as well as possible.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with children inside and outside.
- The inspector took the views of parents into consideration. The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector conducted a leadership and management meeting.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's learning records, safeguarding documents and policies and procedures.

### Inspector

Angela Cogan

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Management and staff promote children's safety and welfare successfully. They understand fully child protection issues and the procedure to follow if they have concerns. For example, staff plan interesting sensory play opportunities and use these to effectively develop children's understanding across the curriculum. Management and staff use their experience and qualifications well. For example, they tailor care and learning effectively to ensure they meet the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are on task and motivated by the exciting learning opportunities available to them. For example, toddlers were thoroughly engaged as they transported toy dinosaurs from one place to another, carefully hiding them in a sand and cornflour mixture. Staff promote children's thinking skills well to extend their learning; for example, they encouraged pre-school children to make predictions as they mixed sand, mud and water in the 'mud kitchen'. Staff make detailed and well-evaluated observations of children's achievements. They promote children's next steps in learning by carefully considering each child's stage of development. For example, staff help babies to build towers and babies enjoy the fun and repetition of knocking them down. Staff track children's progress carefully across all areas of learning; they notice any gaps in development and quickly target them to help children catch up, gaining support from other professionals as required.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have very positive relationships with their key person. This helps them to feel happy and settled. Children are confident and keen to take part. They respond well to the routine and understand what is coming next. Children behave well and treat each other with consideration. Children operate with growing independence and use skills that will help them at school. For example, children make choices about where they would like to play and take responsibility at tidy-up time. Children have constant access to the outdoors, benefitting from lots of fresh air and exercise. They explore and investigate a good range of experiences across the whole curriculum. For example, they improve their physical skills as they learn to pedal bikes and enjoy using chalks to draw houses on the ground.

### Outcomes for children are good

All children are eager to learn and explore, gaining confidence and independence. They develop good social skills and learn to behave well. Children develop skills that prepare them well for school. For example, older children work at typical levels of development for mathematics and literacy.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY477266
<b>Local authority</b>	Bristol City
<b>Inspection number</b>	978689
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	51
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	83
<b>Name of provider</b>	Little Acorns (South West) Limited
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable
<b>Telephone number</b>	0117 9326484

Stepping Stones Nursery registered in 2014. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery opens from 7.30am until 6pm each weekday throughout the year. The manager holds an early years qualification at level 4. She is supported by 11 members of staff who hold relevant childcare qualification at level 3, and one member of staff who holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 1.

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