

Stepping Stones Nursery

Stepping Stones Nursery, Main Road, Weston, CREWE, CW2 5LD



Inspection date

7 June 2016

Previous inspection date

12 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- All staff are extremely sensitive to meeting children's needs. They plan sharply focused activities that are well matched to the development needs and interests of all children. This helps to promote and support children's current interests and next steps extremely well.
- Partnerships with parents are very strong. The nursery shares ideas with parents about how to support their children's learning at home. This successfully helps children to continue to become confident learners and be ready for the next steps in their learning.
- High expectations, vision and drive from the management team ensure the nursery maintains their excellent, high-quality standards. Staff continually implement ways to build on their current outstanding performance.
- Staff have excellent links with the local and surrounding schools. Information about what children know and can do is shared with teachers from local schools. Staff plan specific focused activities for pre-school children in their last term at the nursery to comprehensively support and prepare them for the move to school.
- Staff have high expectations for all children's achievements, including children who speak English as an additional language. Additional support is offered to promote children's progress and offer them challenging and interesting learning experiences. Children learn about the importance of similarities and differences in their own and others' cultures, beliefs and backgrounds.
- Self-evaluation is robust, precise and accurate. The management team knows the strengths of the setting and uses the views of others to set achievable targets for rapid improvement and outstanding practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- assess the impact that the continued programme to build on professional development has on maintaining the already excellent outcomes for children.

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 completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and the quality improvement officer. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lesley Bott

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff are involved with, and have an excellent understanding of, safeguarding policies and practice to ensure children's safety is promoted. Staff know the signs of abuse and where to refer any concerns they may have about the care of a child. Monitoring and assessment of individual and different groups of children's development are excellent. Staff swiftly identify children who are not making typical progress and work with parents and outside agencies to quickly close any gaps in children's learning. Comprehensive and robust supervision, appraisal and mentoring strategies are in place for staff. Peer observations include staff monitoring and observing each other's practice to help improve teaching through robust reviews by the management team. The manager is currently working on ways to enhance the professional development of all staff even further as part of her high expectation and vision for the setting.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

All children have plentiful opportunities to explore and use their senses. Teaching motivates and interests the children extremely well. They show great enjoyment as they use the milking station to try out their skills at milking a cow. Staff show high expectations of children's learning. They challenge and extend children's thinking as they play alongside them. Older children follow on with their learning from a Forest School activity as they explore life cycles. All children are extremely well supported by staff to develop their communication and language skills. Staff model new language extremely well as babies begin to communicate and develop their vocabulary. Older children confidently explain to staff what they are doing and what they want to achieve from their play, asking for support from staff when needed. Staff inspire children's imagination as they extend activities. They encourage children to persevere or continue with their chosen task as they offer motivation and praise for their efforts.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

An exceptional range of equipment is in place which provides children with exciting and inspirational activities and experiences. This helps to ensure that children's progress is rapid as they are eager to learn in the interesting and invigorating environment. Children's understanding of healthy lifestyles is extremely well promoted by staff. The utmost priority is given to enabling children to be outside and physically active. Staff are fully effective in managing children's behaviour. They create a calm and peaceful environment where children learn to listen, follow instructions and develop respect for each other. Staff extend and enhance children's understanding of their local community as they look at the cows and the tractors in the neighbouring fields. Children relish their trips to the local train station and airport.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those in receipt of funding, make excellent progress from their starting points. Older children acquire the skills, knowledge and attitude that help to prepare them well for starting school. Children are eager and motivated learners who show an avid interest to engage in plentiful activities and experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY348836
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	849459
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	96
Number of children on roll	112
Name of registered person	Stepping Stones Nursery (Weston) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP527072
Date of previous inspection	12 May 2011
Telephone number	01270 252299

Stepping Stones Nursery was registered in 2007. The nursery employs 23 members of childcare staff. Of these, 21 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including one with level 4, one with level 5 and one with level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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