

Stepping Stones

1 Hawkesbury Road, Bristol, BS16 2AP



Inspection date	10 January 2018
Previous inspection date	14 January 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The managers are committed to the ongoing development of the nursery. For example, they support staff well to evaluate their own practice. Staff now monitor progress for their key children and identify gaps in the learning opportunities that they provide.
- Staff ensure that all children have good opportunities to develop mathematical learning. For example, they talk about size and colour as toddlers build with bricks and sand. Older children begin to recognise written numerals as they talk about the date.
- Staff teach children to be aware of their own feelings and those of their friends. For instance, children talk about why they are feeling happy, sad or excited. Staff teach children well to cope with less-positive feelings. For example, they suggest making a special picture to take home to people the children miss.
- Children behave well and show consideration for others. For example, they wait and listen when others are talking, and staff give gentle reminders if needed. Children know that they will be listened to when it is their turn to talk.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff sometimes miss opportunities for younger children to develop the independence skills that will help them to manage their personal needs. For example, when toddlers have been playing with water, staff dry their hands and faces for them.
- Staff often rush the songs which guide older children through the day, such as at welcome and tidying times, and so miss opportunities to motivate children to join in.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use every opportunity to help younger children become independent in managing their personal needs
- ensure that regular activities effectively motivate older children to join in.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed care and teaching practices in all rooms and in the garden.
- The inspector spoke with parents and children, and took account of their views.
- The inspector held leadership and management discussions with the managers.
- The inspector viewed a range of documents, including those relating to statutory requirements.
- The inspector spoke with staff and took account of their views.

Inspector

Patricia Pillay

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers support the professional development of staff well. They meet with staff to discuss observations of practice, and arrange training to address any gaps. For example, staff have attended training in supporting children's literacy. They now involve children in everyday literacy, such as by using children's words on planning boards. They add written words to photographs, and read these with children when discussing the photographs. Safeguarding is effective. Managers and staff know the signs that would alert them to have concerns for a child, and the actions that they should take. Staff know procedures to follow to keep children safe. For example, they know they need to look through the window to check who is at the door before opening it, and to secure the door when visitors leave. Managers and staff regularly review safety together during staff meetings.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Managers and staff ensure that resources support learning across the curriculum for all children. For example, they provide push-along toys to encourage babies' to develop mobility. Older children enjoy group games, such as listening to animal sounds and using picture prompts to identify the animal. The oldest children learn how to complete simple computer programs. Staff make good use of opportunities to teach children about the world. For instance, they teach children to know signs of cold weather, such as being able to see their breath in the cold air. Staff support children's language learning well. For example, they help older children to record their own stories in words and pictures. Babies enjoy looking out of a big window. Staff talk to them about what they see outside.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support good continuity for children's care. For example, they share information books with other settings children attend. They liaise well with parents when making decisions for children, such as identifying the best time for babies to move on to the toddler room. Staff make time to talk with parents each day and share daily written records, such as sleep times and the food younger children eat. They regularly invite parents to discuss children's progress. Managers monitor progress for groups of children and take prompt action to close gaps in learning. For example, they identified gaps in toddlers' technology learning and introduced keyboards and cameras to prompt interest.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are happy, outgoing and confident. They enjoy talking with visitors about their nursery. Older children have good opportunities to develop skills that they will need when they move to school. For example, they serve their own food, making decisions about how much they would like to eat. They clear away their plates and cutlery when they have finished. Older babies enjoy playing in the garden alongside toddlers. This helps them to get to know the adults who will care for them when they move rooms.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY315335
Local authority	Bristol City
Inspection number	1092487
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	67
Name of registered person	100 Acre Wood Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP552003
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2015
Telephone number	0117 965 7269

Stepping Stones registered in 2005 and operates in Fishponds, Bristol. The nursery operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 12 members of staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, and one is qualified at level 2.

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