

Stepping Stones (Brislington)

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



Inspection date	24 April 2019
Previous inspection date	4 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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children make good progress in their learning from the start. Staff assess and plan their learning effectively, and the manager monitors the development of different groups of children.
- Staff establish good partnerships with parents to meet children's needs and care routines consistently and well. They work closely with parents and other professionals to develop activities and resources which support the learning styles of children with additional needs.
- Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time at the nursery. They behave well and develop good social skills. For example, children cuddle their friends, have good manners and help others kindly in play.
- Staff provide interesting activities for children to develop their imaginations and creative skills. For instance, younger children explore paint, oats and dough with their hands and tools, and older children paint still-life pictures of spring flowers.
- The management team reflects on and evaluates the quality of the nursery's provision successfully to drive ongoing improvements. For instance, staff have introduced props to involve and engage children better in group story times.
- Staff miss some opportunities to help younger children to develop their understanding of size, to support their mathematical development even further.
- On occasions, staff do not support some older children with their chosen activities outside, and children lose interest.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of opportunities to extend younger children's understanding of size further
- develop the organisation of older children's outdoor play to provide them with consistent support, to keep them interested and engaged in their chosen activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and the quality of teaching in the playrooms and outdoor play areas.
- The inspector sampled children's assessment records and planning documentation and talked to children at appropriate times.
- The inspector assessed the suitability of staff and discussed management's knowledge and understanding of the early years foundation stage.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Bridget Copson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team and staff have a clear understanding of the risks to children and the procedures to follow in the event of any concerns about a child, to safeguard their welfare. The manager maintains the required adult-to-child ratios in the playrooms and keeps a record of any complaints for reference. The management team follows robust vetting procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Staff benefit from regular supervision sessions and professional development to help improve their skills and outcomes for children. For example, they have introduced a library scheme for children to borrow books to read with their parents at home. This has helped to improve children's interest in books and developed their reading skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff know the children well. They use good teaching skills to challenge children and help them achieve their next steps in learning. Staff support children's communication and language development well. They respond positively to babies' babbles to encourage them to express themselves. Younger children listen to letter sounds and clues in games with staff to help them learn and remember new words. Staff instigate lots of discussions in children's play and at sociable mealtimes to encourage children to listen and talk. They ask older children lots of questions to extend their learning further and to encourage them to think, recall past events and solve problems. Children are keen to join in new activities. For instance, babies are fascinated by staff blowing bubbles and younger children persevere with using tongs to pick up materials.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff maintain clean, safe and secure environments for children throughout the nursery. They provide a very warm and nurturing environment for the youngest children, who they form close and trusting bonds with. Children benefit from different activities to develop their physical skills. For example, babies learn to crawl and walk in safe spaces and younger children learn how to use different tools in their creative play outside. Staff encourage older children to feel confident about judging and taking risks to develop new skills. For instance, children make 'sledges' from flattening cardboard boxes that they pull up a slope and then slide down on. Children are elated to have achieved the challenge and keen to practise this over again, telling staff they will go 'faster this time'.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need for their future learning that help prepare them for school. They are interested and motivated to learn. Children choose and explore freely and create their own ideas. For example, they fill containers with water outside to paint on the fences and to change the texture of sand. Children learn to manage practical tasks efficiently to promote their confidence and independence from a young age, such as serving themselves at mealtimes. They develop positive attitudes and learn about diversity in the world.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY477266
Local authority	Bristol City of
Inspection number	10061856
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	129
Name of registered person	Little Acorns (South West) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904196
Date of previous inspection	4 February 2016
Telephone number	0117 9771685

Stepping Stones (Brislington) registered in 2014. It is located in Brislington, Bristol. The nursery is open weekdays from 7.30am to 6pm throughout the year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 20 members of staff, of whom 19 hold early years qualifications at levels 2 to 6.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted 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.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

