

# Stepping Stones Nursery

12 Stoney Road, COVENTRY, CV1 2NP



## Inspection date

26 February 2016

Previous inspection date

25 November 2009

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	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

- The quality of teaching is excellent and staff have a superb understanding of how young children learn. Staff have extremely high expectations for what children can achieve. Learning experiences are innovative and inspiring. Children are highly motivated, confident and extremely eager to learn.
- Staff regularly observe children and make accurate assessments of what they know and can do. The active involvement of parents and staff's comprehensive knowledge of each child lead to excellent planning for future learning.
- The strong management team is highly successful in supporting staff who work directly with children. Rigorous monitoring systems are in place to ensure accurate self-evaluation, leading to secure, continuous improvement.
- Staff continue to be highly motivated to extend their knowledge and skills. Regular training on safeguarding children is given a very high priority.
- Staff attend extensive training courses and implement new knowledge extremely well. Their superior teaching skills and experience help them to support children's language development most effectively. Children with English as an additional language have many opportunities to use their first language in their play and learning.
- Children are very happy, settled and emotionally secure. All children are greeted with warmth by staff who clearly relish caring for them. Staff are highly sensitive towards children's individual needs and the relationships they share are excellent.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the implementation of the planned changes to make all policies and procedures even more parent friendly and evaluate the impact on children's outcomes.

### 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 joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the providers and the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents and took account of their views as well as the written views of other parents.

### Inspector

Hayley Lapworth

## Inspection findings

### **Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Recruitment and selection procedures are robust. The management team has devised highly effective tools for monitoring the effectiveness of all aspects of the provision. The team has recently identified additional strategies to enhance the information provided to parents. Professional development and training are given extremely high priority. This includes promptly accessing training to improve knowledge of recent government publications and requirements. Parents share very positive views about the provision. They comment on the professionalism of all staff's and management's approaches to always seeking to improve.

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding**

Staff continually undertake detailed observations of the children's learning. Staff use an exceptional range of methods to ensure parents can regularly converse and share their knowledge of their children's learning at home. This information is then effectively used to complete precise assessments and plan activities that successfully challenge every child. Staff take all opportunities to enhance children's vocabulary and introduce them to new, less familiar language. For example, while older children participate in scientific experiments, they learn to use technical words, such as spillage and test tube. Young children are superbly supported to experience different textures and use their senses. Staff adapt innovative activities to encourage children who dislike getting messy to ensure they can experience similar learning activities to that of their peers. One example of this is when staff provide one tray of shaving foam that children can directly touch. They also provide another tray covered in cling film that children can touch and make marks in but not directly feel the foam.

### **Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding**

The quality of care children receive is excellent. Staff visit children and their parents in their own home prior to starting at the nursery. Parents and children are extremely well prepared for a change of room and key person as they progress through the nursery. Parents are invited for a social evening to get to know the new staff and the room their child will be moving on to. Children's good health is promoted extremely well. All ages of children effectively learn how to attend to their self-care needs. One example of this is babies are encouraged to look into a mirror to help them begin to learn how to wipe their own noses. The highly stimulating outdoor area is thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

### **Outcomes for children are outstanding**

Children are making excellent progress in all areas of their development. Their learning continually builds successfully on what they already know and can do. Children develop outstanding skills for future learning and in readiness for the move on to school. They demonstrate strong skills in perseverance and pay attention to tasks as they lead their own learning and become highly inquisitive learners. Children's learning is effectively tracked by staff who swiftly plan focused activities to overcome any identified gaps.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY321490
<b>Local authority</b>	Coventry
<b>Inspection number</b>	849105
<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 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	65
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	93
<b>Name of provider</b>	Smarteenies Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	25 November 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	02476 222287

Stepping Stones Nursery was registered again in 2006. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, 15 hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 3 to level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 8.15am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs.

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