

Inspection of Small Steps Day Nursery & Pre-School

Bedfont Lane, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9NP

Inspection date: 26 May 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive at the nursery very happily. They form close attachments with their key person and settle in quickly. Key persons show children attention and affection and are very caring. As a result, children feel safe and secure. Children show positive attitudes to their learning. They join in a range of activities, including outdoor games and arts and crafts. Children know staff by name and ask for support if they need it.

Children enjoy playing and exploring indoors and outdoors. Activities are carefully planned to meet children's individual needs and different abilities. Children play in the role play area with a kitchen set, pretend food and dolls. They learn to respect each other and to value their different abilities and backgrounds. Children play outdoors throughout the day, which supports their physical development. They take part in obstacle courses, climb frames and slides and balance on bikes.

Parents speak highly of the nursery and are extremely satisfied with its services. Parents say that the nursery is the best in the area. Managers have built strong parent partnerships and ensure that parents are informed about all aspects of their child's experience in the nursery.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Managers have created an ambitious and inclusive curriculum. They ensure that this is implemented effectively through monitoring and supporting staff each day. The nursery is taking part in an accreditation programme focused on children's communication and language development. This helps staff to evaluate the efficiency of the curriculum. This has had a positive impact on supporting all children's communication and language development.
- Staff assess children's learning and development. This enables them to plan carefully for each child's individual needs and abilities. Staff complete the progress check for children aged between two and three years. This helps staff to provide children with early intervention, if needed. Staff work closely with other professionals, for example, speech and language therapists and health visitors.
- Children behave well and have strong personal development. They have good manners towards each other and respect each other's different abilities. Children take part in small-group activities, enjoy reading books, sing and dance, write their names and take part in art and craft activities using various materials. This supports children's imaginations and creativity as well as the foundation for literacy skills.
- Staff encourage children to become independent by learning about personal hygiene, washing their hands before mealtimes and helping to tidy up and look

after the environment. Children help themselves to morning snacks, pour water independently and help their friends. They make choices in their play. Children say 'please' and 'thank you' when their friends share toys or take turns. Staff are positive role models.

- Children develop hand-to-eye coordination through various rich and exciting activities. For example, they use a hammer to hammer small pins into a cardboard box and make houses from it. Children also use tools on hard vegetables and create patterns. Children spend a long time using hammers and making shape patterns. There are some opportunities for children to learn about mathematics during their play, for example counting objects. However, staff need to ensure that mathematical skills are extended during activities.
- Children's personal development is exceptional and is supported throughout the day. Children help each other. For example, during snack time they pour water for their friends. The provider goes above and beyond to ensure that children's personal development is met, regardless of their different backgrounds and abilities. Staff help each family and their children individually. Children have built a sense of belonging because they feel part of the environment.
- The setting receives additional early years pupil premium funding for children. Staff have used this funding to invest in additional staff to ensure that they can provide more one-to-one support for children who need it. They have also bought resources specifically to meet children's individual needs and abilities. For example, staff bought a shape spiral for children to support their hand-to-eye coordination.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers have implemented robust procedures for safe recruitment to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Leaders and staff understand their responsibility to carry out regular risk assessments to minimise hazards and risks to children and to keep them safe. Staff carry out fire drills each term and make sure that all fire evacuation routes are clear of hazards. All staff have a secure understanding of safeguarding children. They know what to do if they have a concern about a child. Staff know about aspects related to safeguarding children, including the 'Prevent' duty.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- build on current activities to support children to develop their mathematical language and skills further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY563462
Local authority	Hounslow
Inspection number	10194278
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	33
Number of children on roll	66
Name of registered person	South Bedfont Playgroup Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP903998
Telephone number	07909881191
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Small Steps Day Nursery & Pre-School registered in 2018 and is located in Middlesex. It is one of a chain of four nurseries in the local area. The nursery offers early funded education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It is open for 50 weeks of the year, from Monday to Friday, 8.30am until 4pm, except for bank holidays, October half term and a week at Christmas. The nursery offers drop-off and collection services for children at the local primary school.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Angelica De Assis

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The provider and the inspector completed a learning walk together.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager. They observed staff's teaching practices together.
- The inspector spoke to children, their parents and the staff at appropriate times during the inspection, and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a selection of documents and checked evidence of the suitability of staff working with the children.
- A meeting was held between the inspector, the owner of the setting and the manager.

We carried out this inspection 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.

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