

# Step by Step Day Nursery

Monument Gardens, Benden House, Lewisham, London, SE13 6PY



## Inspection date

3 August 2017

Previous inspection date

10 December 2013

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Staff plan exceptionally well to meet children's needs in highly successful ways. For instance, they place a lot of focus on planning for children's changing interests, which results in very high levels of engagement. Children make excellent progress.
- Staff support children's understanding of the world exceptionally well. For instance, children tend their own urban garden where they grow vegetables and flowers. Children have an excellent knowledge of where food comes from and how things grow.
- Staff are meticulous about safety. They carry out comprehensive risk assessments covering all areas and aspects of practice to protect children from harm.
- The manager monitors the staff very effectively. For instance, she dedicates time in the group rooms to observe staff, talk with children, and check planning and assessment to ensure that children's needs are met exceptionally well. Closed-circuit television cameras in each group room help her to closely monitor staff.
- The manager is extremely committed to ongoing improvement of staff skills. For instance, staff have attended a rich variety of training courses, including a course on brain development in the early years, which has led to much greater awareness of how to meet children's developmental needs.
- Children have excellent relationships with each other and learn about and respect others from different cultures. Staff manage children's behaviour highly successfully. Children are very aware of rules and behave exceptionally well.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop the already excellent partnerships with parents to support children's learning further.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager of a group activity.
- The inspector observed interaction between staff and children indoors and outdoors and spoke with children when appropriate.
- The inspector tracked the progress of several children.
- The inspector looked at some documentation and held a discussion with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children and considered their views.

### Inspector

Jennifer Beckles

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager closely monitors particular groups of children to see if there are any underlying trends so that they can provide excellent additional support. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an excellent knowledge of the clear procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child's welfare. The manager and owner carry out thorough background checks on staff to protect children from harm. They have both attended a safer recruitment training course. Although the manager has established numerous ways of working exceptionally well with parents, she recognises that this could be further improved. The manager has a very astute insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the nursery and has identified highly relevant goals to contribute towards improvement.

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

Staff carry out regular detailed observations, which they evaluate very effectively to form highly accurate next steps for children's learning. They use this knowledge exceptionally well to provide highly challenging activities for children. Children make excellent progress. Babies enjoy a richly stimulating environment. For instance, they explore sensory bowls containing different textures and materials, and staff teach babies new words to describe their experiences. Older children have an excellent knowledge of letters and sounds, and many can recognise and write their own names. Staff provide children with excellent experiences, such as creative laboratories where children mix materials of their choice together to explore texture. They provide children with very well-thought-out physical challenges to support their development highly successfully. Children have exceptional early mathematical skills and some are able to add two amounts together.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are extremely caring and nurturing towards the children. They treat them with the utmost respect at all times. Children are extremely able to do things for themselves. For example, even the youngest children are able to put on some items of clothing independently, and older children help to prepare snacks, lay the table and put away their bed linen on awakening from naps. Children have an excellent awareness of how to keep themselves safe. For instance, they carry out supervised risk assessments in the garden, using photographs of things to look out for. Children have extremely healthy daily habits, such as eating freshly prepared, nutritious meals and snacks. They take part in excellent daily physical activities, such as challenging obstacle races. Staff fully explain the benefits of these routines and children have an excellent awareness of healthy lifestyles.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children use mathematical language very skilfully to describe size, shape and quantities. They are very curious and extremely keen learners. Children are extremely motivated to learn and supremely confident. They have highly developed imaginations. For example, in pretend play, they take on the role of different characters and make up intricate stories. Children learn excellent skills for their future learning.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	129055
<b>Local authority</b>	Lewisham
<b>Inspection number</b>	1061345
<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, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	1 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	54
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	28
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Step by Step Nursery Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP909925
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	10 December 2013
<b>Telephone number</b>	0208 297 5070

Step By Step Day Nursery opened in 1994. The nursery is located in Hither Green, in the London Borough of Lewisham. It is open on each weekday from 7.45am to 5.45pm all year round except public bank holidays and one week's closure at Christmas. There are 11 staff members, nine of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. This includes one staff member who holds a degree in early years and one staff member who holds a qualification at level 5. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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