



# **Essential Information**

## **Pack 2026**

# Stepping Stones Nursery

## Welcome!

Stepping Stones Nursery is a warm, friendly place where children learn through play and curiosity. We help children grow in confidence, creativity, and happiness.

## Our Approach

- We use the Curiosity Approach, which means children learn by exploring real objects, recycled materials, and loose parts—not just plastic toys.
- Children are encouraged to think for themselves, use their imagination, and solve problems.
- Our nursery feels like a home, with calm spaces and natural materials.

## Outdoor Adventures



We love being outside! Children play in nature every day, whatever the weather.

We use local parks and nature areas and sometimes go on trips in our nursery minibuses.

Outdoor play helps children learn about the world, build confidence, and make memories.

## Taking Risks Safely



Play sometimes means taking small risks, like climbing or exploring.

We balance safety with fun, so children can learn what they are capable of.

Our team follows safety rules and supports children as they try new things.

## Our Rooms

### Baby Steps:



For babies (3–24 months).

This is a calm, nurturing environment designed to support your child's very first stages of growth and development.

Our baby room is equipped with age-appropriate toys and sensory activities to encourage exploration, early communication and physical development.

### First Steps:

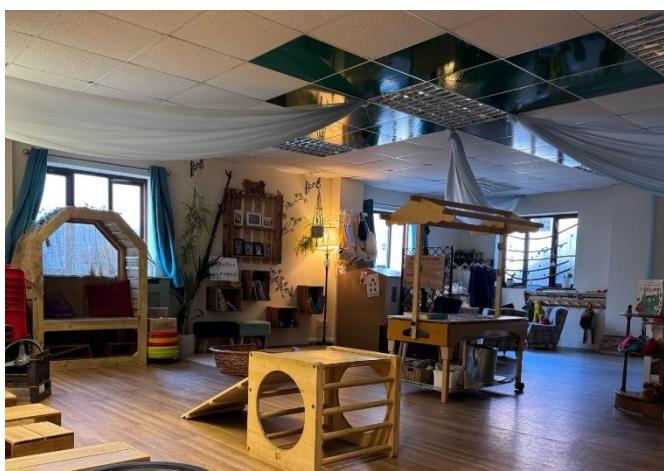


For toddlers (18 months–3 years).

This room is designed for curious little explorers who are ready to take their next big steps.

First Steps is equipped with a variety of age-appropriate resources that support early learning and development, from building physical coordination to encouraging first friendships.

### Big Steps:



For pre-schoolers (2½ years–school age).

Big Steps is an engaging space where children build the skills and confidence they need for their next big adventure - starting school!

We place a strong emphasis on developing communication, cooperation and self-care skills, helping children to become confident learners and kind friends.

## Wellbeing & Meals



We provide healthy meals and snacks and can cater for special diets.

Children get breakfast, lunch, snacks, and tea.

We care for children's health and happiness.

## Communication

We keep parents informed with open days, meetings, and a secure online system called Baby's Days.

You can always talk to us about your child's needs.

## Sessions & Fees

Open Monday–Friday, 8am–6pm, all year except bank holidays and Christmas week.

Different session lengths are available (morning, afternoon, full day).

Fees are paid monthly. See our Fees document for details.

Government early years funding is accepted.

For our full sessions and fee information please contact the office or you can find them on our website.

Our non-funded fees and any additional hours taken on top of funded entitlement are charged at £10 per hour. This rate is fully inclusive of meals, consumables, and activities.

## Early years funding

Early years funding is Government support that helps families access early education and childcare for children aged 9 months to 4 years, depending on eligibility. The funding covers a set number of hours each week and is paid directly to your childcare provider.

According to government and local authority guidance, families may receive 15 or 30 hours of funded childcare over 38 weeks, depending on their child's age and family circumstances.

The government funding covers early education hours only. For each funded session a child attends, parents are asked to contribute towards optional additional services that are not included within the government-funded entitlement. These may include meals, snacks, consumable resources and any extra activities or services you choose to access.

The exact contribution will depend on the sessions your child attends and the optional services you select. All funded hours can be taken without these extras if preferred. Please refer to the Policy Terms document for information on the different services provided.

For families not receiving funding, the Non-Funded Rates are inclusive of the Voluntary Charge.

## **Stretched early years funding**

**15- or 30-hour** funding is stretched over **51** weeks. This equals **11.18** or **22.36** hours per week depending on the number of hours entitlement.

Fees are based on **51** weeks per year, paid monthly in advance.

## **Term Time Only Sessions**

We also offer a limited number of term-time only sessions. Please contact the office for more information.

Please note that the school term consists of 39 weeks per year. Our private fees will be payable if you wish for your child to attend during the additional week outside the funded period.

## **Extra Help**

You may get help with costs through Tax-Free Childcare, Universal Credit, or other support.

## **Food from Home**

If you bring your own food, please refer to our healthy eating policy (no nuts, healthy options, water only).

## **Want to Know More?**

For a more comprehensive and in-depth guide (including our ethos, detailed room descriptions and approach to early years education room by room) please request our Full Information Pack.

Call us on 01273 477 777 or email [info@steppingstonesnurserylewes.co.uk](mailto:info@steppingstonesnurserylewes.co.uk)

Useful links: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>