

Ringmer Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY359967
Inspection date	08 July 2008
Inspector	Fran Fielder
Setting Address	at Ringmer County Primary School, Harrisons Lane, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 5LL
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Registered person	Ringmer Nursery School
Type of inspection	Integrated
Type of care	Full day care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Ringmer Nursery School opened in 2007 and operates from classrooms within Ringmer County Primary School. A maximum of 26 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.30 to 15.30 term times only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 53 children aged from two to under five years on roll. Of these, 40 children receive funding for early education. The nursery makes provision for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also for children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs six members of staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications, one is working towards a qualification and two are taking further qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

An extensive range of activities keep children healthy and supports their physical development. Easy access to the enclosed outdoor play area ensures children get plenty of fresh air. They dig the garden, ride on wheeled toys and play on large equipment. When outdoors, as well as physical play, children enjoy the same activities that take place indoors such as reading and drawing.

The premises are beautifully clean and staff ensure a high standard of hygiene is maintained. Children know when they need to wash their hands and do so without prompting. The daily routines ensure children develop good and consistent hygiene habits from an early age. All documentation, relating to medication and accidents, is well kept to support children's health and welfare.

Children enjoy their food. In the morning, children take round a plate of fruit and vegetables to all those present. This gives children a boost of energy. Later they enjoy balanced snacks, which include fruit and biscuits. Children take responsibility to prevent the spread of germs. After they help themselves to drinking water, they automatically put the used drinking cup into the sink to be washed up.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious well organised environment that provides cosy areas for children to read, relax or play quietly. Posters, photographs and displays of children's work make the nursery stimulating and very welcoming. Children display their own work at child height giving them the opportunity to look at and discuss their contributions. The dedicated messy play area allows children the freedom to explore their creative skills. There is a fabulous role play area, a range of dressing up clothes, a lovely range of books for all ages and plenty of space for tabletop and floor activities. Children have safe and easy access to an excellent range of good quality, stimulating and carefully chosen toys.

The premises are secure with a padlocked gate and a buzzer entry system. This together with clear guidelines mean only known adults can gain entry. There are regular fire drills and risk assessments to ensure all areas are safe for children and adults. Good explanation by staff ensures children learn how to keep themselves safe within the setting.

Staff have an excellent knowledge of child protection issues. They are very clear about their responsibility. They always seek advice if they are unsure about any child who presents unusual signs or symptoms. All procedures clearly show that the children's safety is paramount. This safeguards children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and relish their time at nursery. Relationships are delightful with older children helping and supporting younger children with tasks that might be 'a little tricky' for them to manage alone. This caring nature reflects the way staff support the children. Named

pegs, labelled work and greeting the children by name makes each child feel secure, comfortable, welcomed and highly valued. Achievable tasks ensure children feel good about their ability and motivate them to tackle new challenges that maximise their learning and development.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn. They plan a range of first hand experiences that are exciting and allow children to make connections between the areas of learning. Staff observe and assess each child's achievements and identify the next steps for learning. Planning for focused activities includes vocabulary to be introduced and questions for staff to ask that encourage children's thinking skills. Differentiation is included for groups and key workers focus on individual goals for each child. Because of careful planning and in depth knowledge of individuals, all children make excellent progress towards the early learning goals.

Children are very confident, independent and highly motivated. They are enthusiastic about everything they do whether it is exploring in the garden or helping to clear away toys. They love to sit with friends and 'read' stories to each other. They talk about the pictures using excellent vocabulary and take turns when speaking. Their listening skills are exceptional. Staff foster a love of books as they read poems and stories that children truly enjoy. While reading staff discuss the title, author and illustrator and children comment on the quality of the pictures. There are many opportunities for mark making and children particularly enjoy 'taking the register', 'making notes' and writing the names of children present.

Children count confidently and use mathematical language during their play. They enjoy number puzzles and making patterns. They discuss the size of fish while listening to 'Swimming'. They learn about jellyfish, sharks and tuna. They know that colourful fish live in warmer water and watch as tadpoles grow into frogs. While playing musical instruments they discuss which fish might be represented by the different sounds the instruments make.

Children love the outdoors and plant seeds in the garden they have helped to create. While racing around on wheeled toys they carefully manoeuvre to avoid people and obstacles. They spend time floating boats, looking at reflections on water and discovering the effect on boats of big and small puffs of wind. They enjoy large scale painting and sand writing that helps develop their gross and fine motor skills. The dedicated messy play area is available at all times to children allowing them to explore and experiment with different media. They make leaf prints using clay, create collages and paint pictures that represent their experiences. Children collaborate well to create large scale displays of 'The Three Little Pigs' and build houses out of sticks in the garden. Everything that is planned for the children clearly demonstrates the expertise of the staff and their commitment to providing an exciting and wide ranging curriculum that is accessible to all.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a truly inclusive environment where every child is valued as an individual. Children's comments and questions are listened to and staff acknowledge their contributions to discussion. This makes children feel valued and promotes their self-esteem. Staff work very closely with parents of children who speak English as an additional language to ensure support meets children's needs. Children learn the value of a diverse society and are encouraged to

acknowledge each other's abilities and views. As a result, children develop a positive attitude towards diversity.

Children behave extremely well because staff are consistent, use positive strategies and acknowledge good behaviour. Children are keen to look after the environment and willingly help clear away toys and resources. Staff are supportive and help children understand right from wrong through sensitive discussion. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

The partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Parents receive information about all aspects of the nursery. They are invited to presentations that outline new practice. They have the opportunity to look at and join in the activities that their children enjoy and find out what their children learn from these activities. Children take home story sacks with books and props for them to read with their parents. A regular exchange of information about children's achievements at home, as well as at nursery, contributes towards each child's success as a competent and motivated learner.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Leadership and management are outstanding. The manager is extremely competent and knowledgeable. She leads a long standing, well motivated and committed team. Staff work exceptionally well together. Clear communication, support and guidance from the manager ensures they are able to provide a stimulating well balanced programme. Staff meet regularly to plan activities that are based around individual learning and development needs. Evaluation of the activities identifies strengths and ways forward. The nursery works closely with the school and children attend play rehearsals, assemblies and look at older children's work. This helps those children who transfer to the school settle quickly.

The manager knows the staff well and values their individual contributions. Staff appraisals identify strengths and the manager is keen for staff to develop professionally. They have many opportunities to train and attend relevant courses. Ongoing assessment of the provision and the development of action plans demonstrate a commitment to improving the outcomes for children.

Staff plan and organise the indoor and outdoor play areas extremely well. This demonstrates an excellent understanding of the importance of providing a stimulating and accessible environment. Staff deployment is very effective and staff work directly with the children at all times. This ensures all children receive the support they need to learn and develop at their own pace.

All documentation is in place and well maintained. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect practice and meet requirements. The nursery meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk