



## **Downsend School Epsom Lodge**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY307658
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Carol Newman

<b>Setting Address</b>	Norman Avenue, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3AB
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<b>Registered person</b>	Downsend School Limited
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
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<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care
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## 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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Downsend School - Epsom Lodge is one of three pre-preparatory departments attached to Downsend School, Leatherhead, Surrey. It was founded in 1941 and registered for full day care in September 2005. It operates from five teaching rooms in a converted residential property.

A maximum of 63 children may attend the provision at any one time. The school is open each weekday from 08:55 to 15:30 term time only and provides an extended day from 08:00 to 17:30, term time only. Children have access to a fully equipped secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 109 children aged from 2 to 6 years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area. The school currently supports a number of children with special educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The school employs 26 staff. An appropriate qualification is held by 21 members of staff, including the Headteacher. Two members of staff are currently on a training programme.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Childcare Service.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children develop good personal hygiene routines and self-care skills and the environment is clean and well maintained. There are effective procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. Children understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating food and most do this automatically.

Parents give prior written consent to administer medication that ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. However, written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment has not been requested. All staff attend basic first aid training suitable for appointed persons in schools. Therefore, staff can give some appropriate care if there is an accident. However, this training is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the National Standards.

The record of children's accidents is well maintained and signed by parents. It does not include a record of existing injuries and no formal procedure to record these is in place.

Children enjoy varied and nutritious meals which meet special dietary needs and ensure children remain healthy. Meals and snacks are attractively prepared on the premises and the cooks have a good understanding of what constitutes a healthy balanced diet for young children. Children eat together in a family group, making it a social event.

Fresh drinks of water are available on request. Children are offered regular drinks throughout the day and the frequency is increased in warm weather. This encourages children to think about their personal needs.

Young children are encouraged to be independent and make choices about their snacks in accordance with the "Birth to three matters" framework. Under-threes develop warm relationship with staff who are responsive to young children's needs.

Children enjoy many opportunities to take part in physical play, both indoors and out, that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

## **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. They have easy and safe access to a good range of carefully selected resources appropriate for their age. Resources are displayed attractively and children confidently help themselves.

Staff encourage children to safely visit all areas and to access resources that they know will support individual children's next steps. Through gentle reminders children are encouraged to tidy away one activity before using another. Most children do this automatically. There is a sufficient number of child sized chairs and tables to allow children to play and eat in groups.

Children have quiet times in the book corner which is comfortably furnished with a range of child sized sofas or rugs and cushions. Staff recognise that younger children, who attend for a full day, may require additional sleeping facilities. Suitable sleeping equipment is available to ensure children's safety and comfort.

Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and know how to proceed if they have concerns about a child in their care. This supports children's wellbeing.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and relaxed. They readily approach staff and visitors for support indicating good trusting relationships.

Young children enjoy lots of positive interaction giving them the confidence to try new challenges. Staff are beginning to use the Birth to three matters framework to confirm that the activities are suitable for children under three. Young children enjoy stimulating activities, such as listening and moving to music, exploring different textures, looking at books and listening attentively to stories. Activities cover all areas of the curriculum and develop all-round skills. For example, children enjoy finding the correct two dimensional shape in the correct colour and move confidently to stand on it. This incorporates aspects of shape, colour and physical play into the children's learning.

Staff encourage children to play together and share. Lots of praise and encouragement develops children's self-esteem. All children enjoy opportunities to develop their social skills. For example, they sit together at meal times and enjoy role-play where they negotiate and co-operate effectively.

Staff have high expectations of behaviour and teach children to respect each other and their environment. Children help each other and are encouraged to work together.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Staff treat children with respect and value their individuality. They encourage them to enjoy the good range of resources and activities that develop children's understanding of the wider world. Staff ensure they know about children's needs with regard to religion or culture so they can help the child acknowledge their own culture and see it as important. This helps children develop a positive attitude towards today's diverse society.

There are good systems in place to support children who have special needs and those who speak English as an additional language. Staff manage children's behaviour well and good explanation ensures children learn right from wrong.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Staff gather all relevant information on the registration form to ensure children are cared for according to parents' wishes. Parents and staff work together and share information about children's individual progress and development. Parents contribute to their child's assessment at frequent parents' evenings. The school run their own playgroup. This helps children to become familiar and comfortable with the school setting before they attend and contributes to the home/school partnership.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Staff work well as a team and clear communication and guidance allows them to provide a stimulating well-balanced programme. Staff understand their role and responsibility. They have the opportunity for professional development and the management actively encourage staff to attend training.

The premises layout is well organised and children are able to play outside several times during each day. Staff evaluate the activities and use the information to enhance the learning experiences for children. Staff deployment is effective and ensures children are well supervised at all times. Children receive good support from staff who know them well.

Staff knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework provides reassurance that the school's practice with young children is appropriate and the Foundation Stage curriculum is used successfully for the benefit of the children.

All mandatory records are in place, confidential and well maintained. This guarantees the safe and effective management of the setting in order to promote children's welfare.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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

## **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- request written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment and ensure that at least one member of staff with first aid training for infants and young children, consistent with guidance issued by the Secretary of State, is on the premises or on outings at any one time
- maintain a record of any existing injuries and ensure that staff and parents are made aware of the procedures to follow.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)