



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY252581

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	17/12/2003
Inspector Name	Cilla Rachel Mullane

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	The Elms Nursery School
Setting Address	Richmond Road Ramsgate Kent CT11 9PQ

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The partnership of The Elms Nursery School
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Elms Nursery School
Address	Richmond Road Ramsgate Kent CT11 9PQ

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

### Information about the setting

The Elms Nursery opened in 2002. It operates from a large detached building in Ramsgate. The premises consist of a playroom on the ground floor, two playrooms and a dining area on the lower ground floor, and a pre school room on the first floor. There is an office/staff room, a kitchen, and toilets. There is a small outside play area. The nursery serves the local area.

The Nursery is registered for 42 children aged from 2 years to under 5 years. There are currently 43 children from 2 to under 5 years on roll. This includes 6 funded 3 year olds and 7 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery supports children who have special needs, and children who speak English as an additional language attend.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 to 18:00.

Eight staff work with the children. Six have early years qualifications. Four staff are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

The Elms Nursery provides good care for children aged two to under five years.

Staff are well qualified and experienced, and work well as a team. Space, staff and resources are well organized to meet the children's needs effectively. The environment is warm and welcoming to children and parents. Clear policies, procedures and records underpin the day-to-day running of the nursery, and are effectively implemented by staff.

Premises are safe and clean, with procedures in place to identify and eliminate hazards. Health and hygiene procedures are mostly effective. Mealtimes are relaxed social occasions, and staff promote children's independence, which also happens throughout the nursery. Staff have up to date knowledge of child protection issues, enabling them to act appropriately with concerns.

Children are happy to enter the nursery and approach staff confidently. The quality of staff: child interaction is especially good, with adults working closely with the

children, supporting and extending their play and learning. Children are happy and stimulated, with planned, exciting activities covering all areas of development, and opportunities for small group work. Individual children's needs are known and generally met, their progress is recorded, all children are included, and planning of activities is done on an individual basis. Staff promote equal opportunities. There are some resources and activities, which reflect the diversity of society. Staff manage behaviour positively and consistently, resulting in clear boundaries and good behaviour.

Staff work in partnership with parents, and parents are very happy with the standard of care and the exchange of information about their children's development and activities in contact books and informally. Parents are given written information about the curriculum, and the provision.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

This inspection is the first since registration

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff in the pre school room have an excellent knowledge of the curriculum for the Foundation Stage.
- Planning is thorough.
- Observations are used to plan for individual children. Staff working with the younger children are working towards using Birth to Three Matters in their care of the children.
- There is a strong emphasis on promoting independence throughout the nursery.
- Positive staff: child interaction was observed. Children were happy and confident.
- Space is well organized to meet the children's needs, with children regularly moving around the nursery to get opportunities to take part in a variety of activities, and to use all the toys and equipment.
- There is a dedicated dining area, children are able to be independent at mealtimes, serving and cutting their own food, wiping their own hands and faces. Staff have food hygiene certificates. There are plans to allow children to help cook the food.
- Staff described appropriate strategies for managing children's behaviour. Children's behaviour was good - staff were observed to be good role models, and the children were kept busy.
- Contact books are used, with a list of activities enjoyed by the children.
- There are letters to parents about planning, and activities to do at home.
- There are thorough progress reports shared with parents.

- Open days are held, with interviews with key workers.
- Parents questioned, and those who commented in questionnaires, were very happy and kept informed.
- All staff asked gave excellent descriptions of child protection procedures.

#### What needs to be improved?

- procedures for obtaining staffs' written permission for their police checks to be copied and kept on the premises
- procedures for keeping staffs' medical details on the premises
- delegation of responsibilities, so that these are shared by staff
- privacy for children in the toilets
- the light in the pre school room
- evidence that the fire safety officer is aware that children are now being cared for on the first floor and the lower ground floor
- the registration system, so that attendance times are recorded for children and staff.

#### Outcome of the inspection

Good

#### CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

*All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.*

*As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.*

#### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

#### The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure that staffs' medical records are kept on the premises.
4	Ensure that children can have privacy when using the toilets.
6	Ensure that fire safety precautions on the lower ground floor and the first floor meet the fire officer's recommendations.
14	Ensure that the register includes times of arrivals and departures of staff and children.

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON**

*Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.*

### **STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION**

*The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.*

### **STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY**

*The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.*

### **STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

*The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.*

### **STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT**

*Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.*

### **STANDARD 6 - SAFETY**

*The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.*

### **STANDARD 7 - HEALTH**

*The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.*

### **STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK**

*Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.*

### **STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.*

### **STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

*The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is*

*proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.*

#### **STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR**

*Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.*

#### **STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

*The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.*

#### **STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION**

*The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.*

#### **STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION**

*Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.*