



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127250

DfES Number: 522662

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/05/2004  
Inspector Name Christine Robinson

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten  
Setting Address Hamstreet School  
Hamstreet  
Kent  
TN26 2EA

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten  
1089979

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten  
Address Hamstreet School  
Hamstreet  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN26 2EA

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

### Information about the setting

Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten opened in 2001 and is managed by a committee.

It operates from a building within the grounds of Hamstreet Primary School. There is one main play-room, cloakroom facilities and a large enclosed play-area outside. The children are also able to use parts of the school building, such as the dining-room.

There are currently 70 children from 2 to 4 years on roll. This includes 20 funded 3 year olds and 31 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs.

The group opens five days a week during term-time. Sessions are from 08:45-15:30; some children attend on a sessional basis.

There are nine staff and a volunteer; some staff just work over the lunch-time period. All staff except one, are qualified and hold early years qualifications to NVQ 2 or 3. The setting receives support from an early years advisory teacher. It is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

### How good is the Day Care?

Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten provides good quality care for children. Many of the staff are experienced in the care of young children and most are qualified. Children enjoy play both indoors and outdoors with a wide range of high quality toys and equipment that help them to develop in all areas. Children are organised into small focus groups at certain times of the day to ensure they experience activities at an appropriate level. Paperwork is comprehensive and well-organised. All required policies and procedures are kept but the child protection statement lacks the required detail.

There is a generally good awareness of safety but the system of risk assessment is

not yet complete and does not cover, for example, times when children are on the school premises. Excellent attention is given to health and hygiene practice and children are able to eat a hot meal at lunch-time in the school dining-room. Staff are very aware of equal opportunity issues and the nursery supports all children including those who might have special or additional needs. There is a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures.

Staff interact with children in a positive way and as a result, children enjoy their play and develop concentration. Staff develop secure relationships with children and provide good role-models. They set clear boundaries for children's behaviour and use a range of effective management techniques to ensure children behave well.

Parents are involved in all aspects of the nursery in a co-operative partnership with staff. All contributions are welcomed and they receive daily opportunities to speak to staff about children's achievements.

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

Not applicable.

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

- The group is very conscious of the need to work in partnership with parents. Parents are involved in all aspects of the group from cleaning toys, maintenance, helping on outings to sitting on the management committee. Staff are friendly and welcoming and parents are kept fully informed of curriculum planning and their children's progress.
- The nursery is bright and welcoming with displays of interesting pictures and craft-work. Staff arrange the space into a variety of learning zones to ensure children gain the most from the play opportunities provided.
- The nursery is clean and well-maintained. Staff are active in promoting good health and hygiene practice; for example, children are encouraged to clean their teeth during the day. All staff are first-aid trained and they are responsive to ensuring that any children with medical needs are fully catered for.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

The staff, parents and school have worked together to build a garden that has evolved into an excellent and exciting play area and is an outstanding example of community effort. The garden presents opportunities for children to learn through all their senses. Children can create their own physical challenges with resources like barrels, planks, and buried tyres and by digging in a specially prepared area. There is a paved circuit for wheeled toys, a herb garden, a guinea-pig run, space for planting vegetables and a real rowing boat. Children can extend their imagination in an enchanting area complete with wind-chimes and carved wooden mushrooms and act out situations in a 'twigwam'-a secluded den made of natural materials that the children helped to construct with a local craftsman.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the system of risk assessment
- the content of the child protection statement.

**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
6	Extend the plans that identify and reduce the risks associated with the care of children, including the times when children use the school premises.
13	Amend the child protection statement to include the procedures to follow where there are allegations against members of staff and ensure it is shared with parents.

## INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

### How effective is the nursery education?

Highways at Hamstreet Kindergarten provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff work well together in a small and committed team and use effective child-centred teaching methods that are appropriate to children's age and abilities. Sessions are well-organised and flexible and as a result of staff engagement in their play, children develop high levels of self-esteem and confidence.

Staff have a good understanding of the early learning goals and plan together using detailed topic-webs. A range of interesting activities are carefully focussed on the individual needs of children. Staff make regular observations of children's progress and this assessment is used to inform play-plans.

Leadership and management is very good. The management committee and nursery manager are enthusiastic about their roles and provide a model of effective leadership. The main members of staff have been together for some time and all work together and show a commitment to the monitoring and upholding of the quality of nursery education. There is excellent liaison with the local primary school and the group are presently engaged in a quality assurance scheme that involves an intensive programme of self-assessment.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are kept informed about their children's progress through daily interaction, written play-plans, regular open days and when their children leave, through the transfer document scheme. Parents are involved in their children's learning and receive excellent information on curriculum planning, including topic-webs that contain suggestions for play ideas such as recommended books. Although parents have an individual interview when their child leaves, there is little written information available on the detail of the Foundation Stage.

### What is being done well?

- The newly refurbished garden has become an outside 'classroom' and provides a wealth of exciting imaginative learning opportunities for the children across all six areas of learning. For example, a small group of boys were observed to spend a considerable time fetching water in buckets to form a water run with a hollowed plank set up against a barrel. Not only were they learning about the physical properties of water and the force of gravity, they were co-operating as a group and using verbal and non-verbal language to negotiate different roles within the group.

- The kindergarten is well-established within the village and has developed excellent links with parents, the primary school and the local community. Representatives from the school and parents serve on the management committee and the recent success of the garden project demonstrates the positive relationships that exist.
- A strong professional partnership is evident between the nursery staff and the head-teacher and primary school staff. At the moment, all children go on to the school and their transition to school is eased by an effective liaison programme. Nursery children are able to use the school dining-room, library, hall and games field and attend special events like school plays. There is joint planning of the Foundation Stage curriculum across the nursery and reception class.
- The manager has a very positive attitude towards training and liaison with other professionals in the early years field. This receptive approach means that new ideas, such as the 'write-dance' system are embraced and integrated into the curriculum and as a result, children's learning is extended.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the written information given to parents about the detail of the Foundation Stage.

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

Not applicable.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident, show concentration and interest in play activities and behave well. Opportunities to participate in self-directed learning choices promote children's independence and self-esteem. Children are developing good social skills, like listening, and co-operate well in small and large groups. They are helped to gain a sense of community through their parents' and the school's involvement in the nursery.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children speak freely to each other and to adults and are encouraged to learn new words through topic-work and show an interest in books and stories. Children are beginning to link sounds and letters and understand the many purposes of writing. They show good pencil control and acquire the skills necessary to begin early writing.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are very familiar with number and play with a wide range of toys that encourage pattern-making and sequencing. They experience good opportunities to learn about volume and capacity through free access to sand and water-play. They learn about the concepts of addition and subtraction by having fun singing counting songs such as 'Alice the Camel'.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

There are many opportunities for children to find out about the local community and the natural world through visitors, like the Over 60's Club, and active play within an excellently planned garden. Children are developing designing and building skills through the use of scrap materials and support their learning through the regular use of a computer. They experience the wider world through topic-work and the celebration of a variety of festivals.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to take part in vigorous physical activity outside like digging, climbing and pedalling throughout the year. They show control and confidence in using their bodies and an awareness of moving within a restricted space. Children develop hand/eye co-ordination through using a varied range of tools and materials such as a hole-punch, scissors and cork printing and through the introduction of the 'write-dance' system.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are familiar with a wide range of songs and enjoy the regular use of some interesting musical instruments. They have excellent opportunities to learn through their senses; for example, in the garden they can listen to wind-chimes, feel the roughness of the twigs in the wigwam and watch rainbows in the hanging CD's. At the time of the inspection, children used their imagination to count-down a space-ship in an exciting space role-play area.

**Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.**



## **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

## **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT**

*There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:*

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- ensure that parents receive written information about the detail of the Foundation Stage so that they can benefit fully from children's assessment records and the transfer document scheme.

*The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.*

## **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.*