



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT**

**URN 122556**

**DfES Number: 522397**

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date      19/01/2005  
Inspector Name      Carol Newman

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type      Out of School Day Care, Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name      Elmdon Nursery School  
Setting Address      Elmcroft, Woodfield  
                                 Ashtead  
                                 Surrey  
                                 KT21 2RL

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name                      Mrs Hilary Wilkinson

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public 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

Elmdon Nursery School opened in 1987. It is located in a converted bungalow in a residential road in Ashted, Surrey. Children are cared for in three interconnecting rooms. There is a fully enclosed garden area at the rear for outdoor play. Local shops, parkland and a library are all within walking distance of the nursery school. The nursery school is open from 09:30 to 15:30 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and from 09:30 until 12:30 on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The nursery is open during school term time and operates for 3 days a week during the summer holidays.

There are currently 23 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 15 receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local community and the surrounding areas. The nursery school currently supports children with special educational needs. Procedures are in place to accommodate children with English as an additional language.

The nursery school employs four members of staff and a visiting specialist music teacher. Three members of staff including the manager/owner have an appropriate early years qualification. One member of staff is currently on a training programme. Four members of staff hold a current first aid certificate.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Childcare Service.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

The educational provision at Elmdon Nursery School is acceptable and is of high quality. Children make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

Quality of teaching is very good. Staff devise a wide range of stimulating activities that challenge all children. Children are confident learners who are eager to develop their ideas and experiences and staff make good use of spontaneous learning opportunities. Children behave very well in response to the high expectations and sensitive support of staff. Activities are well managed. Staff are adaptable and they respond enthusiastically to children's interests. Planning is clearly based on the stepping stones towards the early learning goals and covers all areas of learning.

Staff make observations of children's activities and children's significant achievements are recorded. Observations are used effectively to inform future planning. However, children's progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals is not clearly identified in the record keeping. Excellent procedures are in place to enable children with special educational needs to participate in the full range of activities.

Leadership and management is very good. The pre-school benefits from the leadership of the owner/manager who works hard to develop a strong, committed staff team and an effective provision. Regular observations and appraisals take place to identify areas for development. Staff take advantage of training opportunities to update their knowledge.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are provided with good quality information about the educational provision through the prospectus, noticeboards and regular meetings. They are well informed about their child's achievements and progress and are encouraged to share what they know about their child through the home/school link diary.

### What is being done well?

- Children are confident, extremely well motivated and enjoy new challenges. Staff have a very good understanding of how children develop and learn. They plan a range of activities based on real life situations that help children progress in all areas of learning.
- Staff interact well with children and support their learning by asking open questions. Staff work well as a team. There are regular appraisals that identify training needs and staff are encouraged to enrol on relevant courses.
- Parents receive good information about the foundation stage. This ensures parents understand that play has an important role in developing children's

skills for the next stage of learning. A good two way flow of information through the home/school daily diary ensures staff and parents are fully aware of children's achievements.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the recording of children's individual progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals in order to effectively inform planning
- the opportunities for children to write for a purpose for example, during role play situations.

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

The improvement in the provision for nursery education since the last inspection is generally good.

At the last inspection the group agreed to devote more time to teaching children about the cultures and beliefs of others. Recent planning shows that the children celebrate Tu B'Shevat, Chinese New Year and a range of Christian festivals. A past pupil has also visited the school to talk about her experiences in Africa and to show the children a range of artefacts.

The group also agreed to provide written plans for physical development. All six areas of learning are included in the planning process.

Additionally, the group agreed to provide a wider range of technological resources, when the funds are available. Photographic evidence and discussion with staff shows that children have access to cameras, a tape recorder, calculators and a non-functioning computer monitor and keyboard. However, the children did not use these in their play during this inspection.

Furthermore, the group agreed to include further opportunities for children to write independently. Planned opportunities for children to practice letter formations are provided and children are encouraged to write their names according to their age and ability. Writing resources are included in role play situations. However, there were no writing resources in the igloo role play and children did not independently visit the writing table, at this inspection.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident, extremely well motivated and enjoy new challenges. They select resources for themselves and concentrate well at self-chosen activities. Children behave very well and respond to requests for good behaviour. They understand the rules within the setting and abide by them. Children adapt to changes in their routine and demonstrate their security as they freely sing while they play. Children understand and respect the different cultures and views of others around them.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children speak confidently. They express their thoughts well using good vocabulary. Children enjoy books and handle them carefully. They spend time 'reading' and sharing books and use them to locate information. Children's listening skills are very good. They listen and take turns when speaking in large and small groups. They negotiate well during role-play. Children practice writing skills but they are not always encouraged to write for a purpose for example, during role play situations.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count accurately and recognise numbers such as their age. They choose number activities during free play and enjoy number rhymes and songs. Children understand the concept of simple addition and subtraction. They can say what is one more or one less and attempt to add two groups of objects. Children's understanding of space, shape and measure is developing well. They recognise the properties of simple shapes and observe patterns using bricks. They use mathematical language well.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children investigate using their senses. They explore materials such as cooked spaghetti, paint and playdough. They grow and care for plants indoors and outdoors. Children competently use a range of small and large materials and tools to build and construct imaginatively. Children operate the telephone in role play and use tools to dismantle clocks. Visitors to the setting help the children to understand the wider world and to find out about their environment.

### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently and in a variety of ways. They are competent when using the climbing frame and when balancing on the plank. They show good co-ordination when riding tricycles, jumping and running. They use space respectfully and effectively. Children's fine motor skills are developing well. They are competent when selecting and using small equipment such as scissors, glue sticks, rollers and cutters to explore malleable materials and for construction purposes.

### **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Very Good

Children explore a range of textures such as cooked spaghetti and paint. They enjoy singing and playing musical instruments in planned activities and spontaneously. They tap out rhythms competently. Children use their imagination and express their ideas in a variety of different ways. They paint freely indoors and outdoors and draw and construct to represent their experiences. Staff provide excellent resources to encourage imaginative play and to reinforce children's knowledge.

**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:
- continue to develop the planning and recording systems so that children's individual progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals is clearly identified and next steps can be effectively identified
- develop additional opportunities for children to write for a purpose for example, during role play situations.

*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.*