



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT**

**URN 123161**

**DfES Number: 590560**

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date	23/11/2004
Inspector Name	Michelle Smith

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Seahorse Nursery School
Setting Address	55 Southdean Gardens Wimbledon London SW19 6NT

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name	Mrs Julia Wolfe
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## 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

The Seahorse Nursery School opened in 1987. It operates from the ground floor of a house, situated within a quiet residential road in Wimbledon. A maximum of 18 children may attend the nursery school at any one time. It is open each Monday, Thursday and Friday from 09.30 to 12.30, and each Tuesday and Wednesday from 09:30 to 15:00 term time only. Two further afternoon sessions are offered to existing older children. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 29 children aged from 2 years to under 5 years on roll. Of these 11 receive funding for nursery education.

The nursery school employs four staff. The deputy head holds a certified qualification. The manager holds a PPA in childcare. One staff member is working towards a NVQ level 3 qualification.

### How good is the Day Care?

The Seahorse Nursery School provides good quality care for children.

The nursery offers a warm, friendly child focused environment that is bright, secure and stimulating for children and their families. Space, resources and materials are utilised effectively and creatively. There is a good staff team that leads to positive and consistent care for the children, who are generally happy and settled. Children are well behaved, there are clear boundaries in regards to behaviour that is understood by children and parents. There is a structured but flexible daily routine that includes free play and planned activities, personal hygiene, outdoor play and snack times. Aspects of health and safety are satisfactory. Staff understand the importance of good hygiene routines.

A range of play activities and learning opportunities are provided which help children progress in all areas of their development. Children are interested and involved in the activities available and play happily with opportunities to explore and investigate. There is a range of furniture, toys, books, resources and play materials that support

the needs of children and offer opportunities for creative, imaginative, constructional, physical and social play. Children have access to provision that reflects positive images of different cultures and disability. They explore different religious festivals and celebrations. The enclosed outdoor play area is well used and children are encouraged to access this area freely through out the day.

The nursery work in partnership with parents and respect their wishes. Good communication is felt to be essential and there is a regular verbal exchange of information, newsletters and reports. Documentation are generally well maintained.

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

At the last inspection the provider agreed a number of action relating to documentation and procedures, training, safety and the toilet facilities. All the actions have been completed. Permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment is in place. There is now a complaints procedure in place, listing Ofsted details. There is a valid gas and electrical certificate now in place. Children and staff attendance are now recorded. Children protection training completed. Separate toilet facilities for staff and children. Child protection procedure included a guideline for allegations made against staff. Children now have a key worker. Policy in place for children excluded with infectious diseases. Sufficient hand washing facilities are in place. Clear procedures in place for emergency evacuation. Staff completed first aid training. Designated person in place for child protection issues.

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

- Many instances of positive interaction observed between the staff and the children. The staff are responsive to children's needs and involve themselves in their play and discussion offering affection, attention and reassurance.
- The nursery encourages children to make choices and develop their independence, language, pre-school and social skills.
- Storage, presentation and accessibility of play provision is good. Displays of the children's work, posters and pictures are strongly in evidence and are attractively displayed.
- Children are treated as individuals and resources reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. Staff demonstrate positive attitudes towards caring for children with special needs.
- Staff manage children's behaviour in a caring and consistent manner, giving clear boundaries and using suitable and age appropriate strategies. Children generally behave well and respond to the staff's requests and guidance. They are encouraged to help tidy up, share and take turns. Praise, positive language and rewards are found effective.
- Staff aim to be friendly and approachable and build good relationships with parents. Responses to the parents' questionnaires indicate they are happy with the quality of care offered by the playgroup.

**What needs to be improved?**

- maintaining confidentiality in the procedure for recording incidents

**PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS** (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

**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
7	devise a system for recording incidents that maintains confidentiality in the recording

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Seahorse Nursery school provides high quality nursery education, which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff manage children well and develop good relationships with them. They plan a variety of practical activities and understand what children learn from them. The space indoors is well organised, creating an interesting learning environment in which children increase their independence. The outdoor area is organised well so children's physical skills are promoted and their natural curiosity fostered.

Staff provide the children with a range of different learning opportunities that are appropriate and meets the children's learning and developmental needs. The children are curious and motivated to learn. There are clear plans in place to ensure there are sufficient challenges for 4 year olds.

Staff assess children's learning against the stepping stones and early learning goals, but do not always ensure that progress reports identify the children achievements and their next step for learning.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. The leader has developed a committed staff team who have a collaborative approach to all aspects of their work. She acts on advice and encourages staff to embrace training opportunities.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents spend time talking informally to key workers about their children and are kept informed of forthcoming events at the nursery. One to one meetings are arranged with parents where they discuss their child's progress and they are well informed. Parents understand the importance of supporting their child's learning at home and a book loan scheme has been very popular and successful.

### What is being done well?

- Staff use excellent strategies to promote good behaviour and consideration for others. Their calm and polite manner sets a very good example for children.
- Children's independence is encouraged throughout the day with children putting on their own outdoor clothing, selecting from planned activities.
- Children benefit from effective teaching to help them design and make things. They become adept at using construction sets, re-cycled materials, scissors, glue and tape.

- Children's skill with technology is promoted with the regular use of a computer and programmable toys.
- Children's physical skills are promoted very effectively through a stimulating range of indoor and outdoor activities.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very well fostered. The staff provide very good role models, showing respect for the children and frequently giving them encouragement and praise which promotes their self esteem.
- The strong partnership with parents makes a good contribution to children's progress. There are effective systems in place for keeping parents informed about the curriculum. Parents have many opportunities to engage in activities which support their children learning, such as completing activities at home which link to the current theme and professionals knowledge is welcomed.
- Leadership and management are very strong. The nursery has a clear systems in place to support staff and monitor teaching and learning. There is a strong commitment through these processes to continue

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

- ensuring that progress reports always identify the children's achievements and the next step for their learning

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

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. Staff have accessed training in the early learning goals and this has contributed positively towards the curriculum planning and staffs understanding of the early learning goals.

A system has been devised to monitor children's progress, which has enables staff to assess children's individual learning needs.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are willing learners in a setting where they gain confidence to speak and sing in a familiar group and develop friendships with both children and staff. They understand the need to take turns, are well behaved and help staff clear activities away. Independence is encouraged by letting children , put on their own shoes and coats and initiate their own play, selecting resources as appropriate.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are encouraged to develop skills for writing through a variety of activities and to understand that print carries meaning. They respond enthusiastically to stories and rhymes and are able to sing simple songs from memory. Children's vocabulary is extended by staff during activities and they are able to link sounds to letters and recognise their own names. Many children can re-call a favourite story and re-tell it, using story language and narratives.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children can count reliably to ten and recognise numerals up to nine. They learn about subtraction through singing songs such as 'Five little men in a flying saucer' and explore addition and subtraction whilst reading stories with staff who carefully question them about how many or what number is left? Children are encouraged to use mathematical language for description and many are able to recognise and name basic shapes and recreate simple patterns.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children create using a variety of materials and join models together using glue, tape and staples. They use their senses during activities involving textures and foods from around the world. Children explore technology using calculators, electronic tills and a computer. They learn about people in the local community during visits from local minister and people from within the local community. Children regularly explore the cultures and beliefs of others.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show increasing control when putting on their outdoor clothing and shoes. They move with control and confidence and show awareness of space for themselves and others whilst riding bikes and cars in the outside area; they are confident climbers. Children are made aware of changes that happen to their bodies after physical activities, and are beginning to understand about healthy foods. They use a variety of tools whilst exploring malleable materials such as wet sand and play dough.

<b>CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children explore colour, texture and shape whilst creating models and pictures. They sing simple songs from memory and follow instructions on music tapes relating to gestures and movements. Children enhance their role play by dressing up in costumes, and respond to their senses by feeling different textured materials and tasting foods from around the world.	
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	



## **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:
- ensuring that progress reports always identify the children's achievements and the next step for their learning

*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.*