



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY252581

DfES Number: 543441

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	06/12/2004
Inspector Name	Beth Kingsland

### 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 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 Elms Nursery opened in 2002. It operates from a large semi-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 on roll. This includes 19 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. Seven 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).

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

The provision is acceptable and of good quality overall. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. The nursery provides children with a warm, caring and welcoming environment. Good support is provided to allow children to become personally independent.

The overall quality of teaching is generally good. Staff work positively with all children, encouraging them to be confident and self-assured. Staff have an appropriate knowledge of the early learning goals. They plan a balanced range of activities and set challenges for children, allowing them to make appropriate progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals. Staff provide support to children during the activities they complete and are aware of their responsibilities throughout each session. Although children have daily opportunities to play outside, staff have not developed the area to allow children to experience activities that reflect all six curriculum areas. Children are generally accommodated appropriately, however, group times are not organised effectively to allow all children to experience activities that are appropriate to their stage of ability and allow for continuous of learning.

The effectiveness of assessment and curriculum planning is generally good. Staff have begun to introduce planning procedures and to make observations of children's progress. Staff know children well, however, information from assessment is not effectively used to inform the planning of activities.

The overall quality of leadership and management is generally good. Staff are appropriately led and are beginning to take positive steps to identify weaknesses within the setting. Procedures have been implemented in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Parents are greeted warmly when they arrive at the nursery and receive good opportunities to be informed about their children's progress in learning.

### What is being done well?

- Staff support children well. Children are confident; they work well together and have formed good relationships.
- Children communicate well together. They speak confidently as they play freely throughout the activities they complete.
- Staff allow children independent choice. Children are very personally independent and are encouraged to make choices.
- The nursery is managed well. Staff work effectively together as a strong team.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the use of assessment to inform the planning of activities</li> <li>● the management of group time and the area for creative development</li> <li>● the organisation of the reading area</li> <li>● the management of outside play to effectively reflect all six areas of learning.</li> </ul>

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children work positively and enthusiastically to complete a range of activities. They have developed good relationships together and their behaviour is good. Children confidently select resources for themselves and are very personally independent. Children are introduced to positive images of other cultures and traditions through planned activities.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children speak confidently together in groups, communicating their ideas during free-play. Staff generally make effective use of discussion activities to develop and extend children's language skills. Good opportunities are provided for children to write freely and imaginatively as part of free-play activities. Children enjoy large group reading sessions.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children receive appropriate opportunities to count and recognise shapes as part of the daily programme of activities. A good range of mathematical equipment is available within the nursery and staff make effective use of these to encourage children to solve simple problems as part of practical and free-play activities.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children receive good opportunities to explore the local and wider world and to discuss their home and family life. Staff provide a good range of planned investigation activities that allow children to explore the properties of different materials. Appropriate use is made of planned activities to allow children to look closely at the differences, patterns and change of materials as part of free-play. Children use a range of materials for construction.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children receive regular opportunities to move safely and freely. Staff provide a programme of activities to allow children to use equipment confidently and imaginatively. Children have daily opportunities to access outside play facilities, however the area is not organised to allow children to experience a range a balanced activities that reflect all curriculum areas. Opportunities are provided for children to develop their small manipulative skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
	Children are encouraged to use their imaginations to communicate their feelings, whilst experiencing a balanced programme of creative activities. Children are able to explore their own ideas and discover independently. Children move freely to a range of music and investigate the sounds they hear. However, due to the management of the facilities children's access to the designated area for creative activities is limited, thus preventing continuity of learning and free choice.

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

### **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES**

- make effective use of assessment to inform the planning of activities.
- ensure group activities are planned appropriately to, i) support children's learning to meet individual needs ii) are appropriate to support children's stages of ability and allow for continuation of learning
- make effective use of the outside play area to support children's development in all six areas of 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.*