



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY255885

DfES Number: 534819

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/09/2004
Inspector Name Teresa Ann Clark

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Elmscot Day Nursery Ltd
Setting Address 149 Stockport Road
Timperley
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA15 7LT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Elmscot Day Nursery Ltd 4224199

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Elmscot Day Nursery Ltd
Address 149 Stockport Road
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA15 7LT

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

Elmscot Day Nursery has been registered since November 2001. It operates from a large converted Victorian house which is situated between Altrincham and Timperley. There are six play rooms for children with suitable bathroom facilities, a kitchen, laundry and staff room. There is a large safe secure outdoor area consisting of grassed and hard areas, including grassed safety surface.

The nursery is owned by Dee Cross and Stephanie Molnar, who work on site every day.

The nursery opens from 08:00 until 18:00 Monday to Friday all year round except for Christmas and public holidays. Creche facilities are available from 12:00 to 18:00 Saturdays only.

There are 105 children from birth to three on roll. This includes 13 funded 3 year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

There are 17 staff working with the children, of these, 14 have early years qualifications to NVQ level 3. The other staff are working towards NVQ level 3 qualifications. The manager and the pre-school teacher are qualified early years teachers.

The nursery receives support 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?

Elmscot Day Nursery provides high quality education overall which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a good understanding of the foundation stage and how children learn. This is reflected in their warm interaction with children and the effective questioning techniques used to challenge children's learning. The learning environment is well organised with good quality resources which encourages children to become active independent learners. Staff observe and assess children's progress and use this knowledge to plan for children's individual learning. However the assessment records do not clearly reflect this. Staff are excellent role-models. The consistent use of praise and encouragement has a positive impact on children's behaviour and self-esteem.

The leaderships and management of the nursery are very good. The staff work well as a team to ensure activities run smoothly for the children. There is a clear commitment to continuous improvement of the nursery, including effective procedures for monitoring the provision and good support from the nursery manager who spends time supporting and working alongside staff and children. The staff team value the support from the Early Years Advisory Teacher and are currently working together developing the outdoor play.

Partnerships with parents is very good. Parents receive comprehensive information about the nursery and are well informed about their children's progress and achievements through regular progress reports and parents evenings. Parents are encouraged to share information about their children's learning at home and contribute to children's assessments.

What is being done well?

- Staff place strong emphasis on developing children's confidence and independence, providing them with praise and encouragement which promotes their self-esteem. A well resourced learning environment encourages children to select resources and be independent learners. Children are encouraged to take responsibility throughout the daily routine as they tidy away equipment, attend to their personal needs and take on the role of monitors.
- Children benefit from a range of interesting and stimulating activities which keep them involved and interested. Children particularly enjoy exploring the magnets and a variety of materials. They are excited, laughing and giggling as they move objects around the table with the magnet placed underneath saying 'It's magic'.

- Children's creativity is well fostered. Children feel at ease to express themselves through art work and role-play. Children confidently explore sounds with musical instruments.
- The nursery is particularly well led and managed. There is a clear commitment to the development of both staff and the educational provision. Effective and strong team work is a strength of the setting.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for children to practise their balancing skills
- the assessments of children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy and confident. They relate well to adults and each other. They are enthusiastic learners who demonstrate good levels of concentration as they persevere with activities. Children take great pride in taking on additional responsibilities such as feeding the fish and setting the tables. They are well behaved, as they use please and thank you and sing along 'It's tidy up time' as they help clear away toys. They are developing personal independence as they freely select resources.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

A very good level of interaction takes place between staff and children. This results in children developing confidence in using language to express their thoughts and ideas. Children recognise their own names and are good at recognising letters and the sounds they make. Children's writing skills are progressing well. More able children write their names using well formed letters. Children have many opportunities to practice their writing skills both in structured activities and in their play.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident counters as numbers are a well integrated aspect of routines and planned activities. More able children are beginning to do simple addition as they add the dots on the ladybirds. Children recognise numerals and more able children correctly order numerals from 1 to 7. Children are developing an awareness of shape as they recognise and name shapes, including pyramid. Children observe patterns on animals and recreate them in their paintings as part of the jungle theme.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing good IT skills using the computer with confidence to support their learning. Children learn about their local environment as they look at maps and record their journey to nursery. Children enjoy exploring and investigating magnets. They learn about change through baking activities and growing in the outdoor area. children talk about their forthcoming trip to the zoo and name the many animals they will see. Children have many opportunities to design and construct.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children negotiate space successfully as they use large apparatus, obstacle course and wheeled toys in the outdoor area. Children have too few opportunities to practice their balancing skills. They learn about keeping healthy as they wash their hands at appropriate times and clean their teeth. Children talk about 'Killing germs' when they wash their hands. Children are developing and practicing their fine motor skills as they complete puzzles, use small construction, paintbrushes and utensils.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children become engrossed using creative materials such as paint, cornflour, dough and sand. They confidently express themselves in their art work as they select from paint and collage materials to create their own pictures of jungle animals. Children enjoy singing familiar rhymes and explore musical instruments. They use their imagination well as they draw on their own experiences in the stimulating 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;
- review the assessment records to clearly show children's progress or identify any gaps in 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.