



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 139935

DfES Number: 533266

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/12/2004
Inspector Name	Denys Rasmussen

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Willows Day Nursery
Setting Address	Sutton Hospital Gate Lodge, Cotswold Road Sutton Surrey

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust
Address	Willows Day Nursery Sutton Hospital Gate Lodge, Cotswold Road Sutton, Surrey

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 Willows Nursery has been registered since 2000 and is run by Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust. It is situated in the grounds of Sutton Hospital.

The nursery operates from five nursery rooms with a play centre annexe and access to a secure garden for outside play. It serves the local community but is primarily for children of trust employees.

There are currently 60 children on roll aged from six months to four years. This includes 13 funded three and four-year-olds. The trust also run a holiday scheme for children aged from five to twelve years and they use the play centre annexe.

The nursery is open five days a week between 07:15 and 17:45 all year round. The holiday scheme is open during school holidays from 08:00 until 17:45.

There are 14 permanent members of staff working with the children, 13 of whom have early years qualifications.

The nursery receives support from the Early Years Development Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Willows Day Nursery 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 have a sound understanding of child development and the foundation stage. They manage the children in a calm, gentle and attentive manner. The staff have an easy rapport and warm relationships with the children. The nursery is organised to create an interesting learning environment, encouraging children's independence. Staff are skilled at adapting activities to the child's level of understanding. Staff allow children time to solve problems to practise and consolidate their learning. Very good resources and practical activities are offered with clear aims and purpose. Good topic based planning is linked to all areas of learning. Staff interact with children to support and enhance their play. The system for recording observations on children needs improving.

Leadership and management is very good. The staff team are well established and work well together clear in their roles and responsibilities. There is a strong commitment to the professional development of the staff who are valued for their contribution. There are good systems in place to monitor the service provided and the quality of teaching. They are aware of their strengths and weaknesses and act to make improvements.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Good information is given to parents about the nursery and foundation stage. Parents are used as a resource to the nursery and are invited in to talk about their jobs and share their skills with the children. Parents have regular meetings with staff to discuss their child's progress and daily reports are written.

What is being done well?

- Staff use excellent strategies to promote good behaviour and consideration for others. Their calm, polite and attentive manner sets a very good example for children. Children are happy and work well together in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Staff interact with children to support and enhance their play.
- The children have access to a good range of quality resources which they access independently. The garden and surrounding environment are used well to develop physical skills, imagination and to discover nature.
- The staff plan worthwhile practical activities often linked to a topic, covering all areas of learning, which are organised with a clear purpose. Staff's effective questioning encourage children to think. Children have the opportunity to go on a variety of outings usually linked to their topic work recent trips were to the fire station, science museum and theatre.

- The information parents are given about the foundation stage is good. Parents are used as a resource to the nursery and are welcomed to work alongside the staff and to share their skills with the children. Good communication systems in the form of newsletters and daily written reports ensure parents are well informed about what their children are learning and how they can contribute. Staff clearly value parents suggestions and respect their views.

What needs to be improved?

- the system for recording observations of children's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

N/a

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are enthusiastic, confident and motivated. They have warm relationships with each other and staff, they cuddle each other and laugh. Children have good self help skills, they use the toilet, wash their hands, wipe their nose, pour their own drinks and independently use the resources. Staff encourage independence and resources are stored to enable self selection. Children behave well. The staff are warm and gentle in their approach, encouraging a calm learning environment.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children interact well, they negotiate and talk to each other particularly during role play, story and circle time discussion. Displays, equipment and resources are labelled with photographs, letters and words encouraging recognition. Children have opportunities to practise the formation of letters with practical activities in salt and sand and tracing their fingers over letter shapes. Children are introduced to letter sounds with the help of games such as 'I spy'. Children enjoy books.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Displays, equipment and resources are labelled with numerals. Children recognise numerals and most can count up to 10. Children's understanding of adding and subtracting is developing well through good use of number songs and by staff's effective questioning during the everyday routine. Good practical activities are offered to help children understand measure, shape, sequencing and patterns. Children are using mathematical language such as bigger, smaller, longer and shorter.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children develop an understanding about the people in their community prompted by creative role play, visitors to the group and outings. Children are encouraged to experiment, they watch ice melt, look at shadows and blow bubbles. They plant seeds and look at nature when walking in the local environment. They are introduced to how things grow and there are plans to use an allotment. Children are introduced to a variety of beliefs, traditions and culture through displays, resources and topic work

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's manipulative skills are well developed they experiment with malleable materials such as play dough, pasta and jelly and are skilled at cutting and threading. Children are aware of their personal needs, they wash their hands and wipe their nose. Good practical activities are provided that focus on body movements and physical skills. Children have free access to the garden on a daily basis, they practise balancing, climbing, sliding and have lessons in ball skills and swimming.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore colour and texture, they print, string paint and blow paint. They manipulate materials such as dough, jelly, salt and sand. Children use role play imaginatively enacting from their own experience and enjoy singing familiar songs. Children have independent access to a variety of creative media and recycled objects, they experiment with confidence and make 3D models. Children are introduced to a variety of different music.

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:
- improve the system for recording observations of children's progress under each area 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.