

Elm Cottage, Didsbury Road Primary



Didsbury Road Primary School, Didsbury Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 3HB

Inspection date	2 April 2015
Previous inspection date	22 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Leadership and management have an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and children's progress is rigorously monitored and assessed. Children's needs are extremely well met and they are well prepared for school.
- Staff consistently demonstrate high quality teaching skills and provide a rich, varied, challenging and imaginative range of play and learning opportunities. As a result, children are highly motivated and eager to explore and learn.
- Exceptional partnership work with the school ensures a consistent, collaborative approach to supporting all children's learning and development needs. This includes children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. As a result, children are extremely well supported and make very rapid progress from their starting points.
- Highly effective partnerships between parents and staff ensures parents are extremely well informed about their child's progress.
- High expectations and effective collaborative working between staff, children and the school results in children having a clear understanding of routines and boundaries. Children's behaviour is exemplary.
- Staff demonstrate a thorough understanding of how to keep children safe in line with their robust safeguarding policy. Children's welfare is extremely well protected. Additionally, children are kept safe and are supported by highly skilled staff to manage risk.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- provide more opportunities for mark making outdoors to further enhance the already extensive range provided indoors for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact this has on children's learning, both inside and out.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the club manager.
- The inspector spoke to school staff, and a small selection of parents and children during the inspection, and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of suitability of staff working in the provision and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Kim Boughey

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Staff are deployed effectively to enthuse and engage children in high-quality, stimulating and challenging activities. Although, access to mark making activities are not consistently available outside. Children are extremely confident and highly motivated. Staff use highly effective teaching skills to engage and support children who speak English as an additional language. For example, in an exciting cake decorating activity, children develop their communication and language skills when staff skilfully repeat words, ask open questions and allow time for them to respond. When staff challenge children to work out how many cakes they will need, children are effectively supported to work out how many children there are and how many cakes they will need if they have two each. Children are developing their understanding of mathematical language extremely well. For example, staff are highly skilled in motivating children to persevere in a challenging basketball game, when they are not able to get the ball into the target area. Staff continuously praise, ask open questions and extend learning by using mathematical language, such as 'How high can you throw the big ball?' Children persevere and are enthused, excited and continue engaging in challenging play opportunities.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children have exceptionally strong, positive relationships with all staff. There is a significantly effective key-person system for the youngest children, which supports their emotional well-being extremely well. New children settle quickly as staff support them through highly effective partnerships with parents and school staff. Children are developing physical skills exceedingly well as they explore the adventure playground and take part in a wide range of physical activities provided by staff. Children's understanding of keeping healthy is promoted fully by staff who provide an excellent range of healthy snacks, which children help themselves to throughout the session. Children's independence skills are developing extremely well.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

Leadership and management is visionary and inspirational. For example, leaders have developed highly effective systems to monitor staff closely and provide regular opportunities for supervision, reflection and sharing of innovative practice. There is a strong ethos of continuous improvement across the setting. Staff hold relevant qualifications and are extremely well supported with their continuous professional development. This leads to consistency of high-quality teaching practice across the setting supporting children to be highly motivated and confident learners. There is a range of highly effective, robust policies and procedures to support children's good health, safety and well-being. Exemplary, effective partnership work with the school ensures staff are fully involved in relevant meetings where plans are made to keep the most vulnerable children safe. As a result, children are safeguarded extremely well and their welfare is extremely well protected.

Setting details

Unique reference number	501470
Local authority	Stockport
Inspection number	869135
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	65
Number of children on roll	65
Name of provider	Elm Cottage Limited
Date of previous inspection	22 June 2009
Telephone number	0161 442 9946 and 07748 075 030

Elm Cottage, Didsbury Road Primary was registered in 1991 and is part of the Elm Cottage group of childcare provision. The out-of-school club is housed within Didsbury Road Primary School's building located in the Heaton Mersey area of Stockport. It operates every day during school term-time from 7.45am until 9am and from 3pm until 5.45pm. There is a full day holiday club during most school holidays. Of the seven staff who work at the club, six hold relevant qualifications equivalent to level 2 and 3.

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