

# Chelwood Nursery School

## Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	100668
<b>Local Authority</b>	Lewisham
<b>Inspection number</b>	276363
<b>Inspection dates</b>	6–7 March 2006
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Sue Vale

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

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<b>Type of school</b>	Nursery
<b>School category</b>	Community
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3–5
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School	
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Jane Smith Nikki Oldhams
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	Not previously inspected
<b>School address</b>	Chelwood Walk Turnham Road Brockley London SE4 2QQ
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 7639 2514
<b>Fax number</b>	020 7635 8017

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<b>Age group</b>	3–5
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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by an Additional Inspector.

## Description of the school

Chelwood Nursery School is situated within a Sure Start area in Lewisham and serves an area of significant deprivation. Over a third of households with dependent children are headed by a lone parent. A quarter of children are entitled to free school meals. Pupils come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Eighteen cultures are represented and eleven languages are spoken in the school. A significant proportion of children have below average language, physical and social skills when they start school. The senior management team is new and the headteacher has been in post for under a year.

## Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

## **Overall effectiveness of the school**

**Grade:**

### **What the school should do to improve further**

\* Extend the use of assessment information to identify differences in the performance of groups of children so that plans to raise standards further are sharply focussed on meeting their needs.

## **Achievement and standards**

**Grade:**

## **Personal development and well-being**

**Grade:**

## **Quality of provision**

### **Teaching and learning**

**Grade:**

The inspection confirms the nursery's view that teaching and learning are good. Lessons are well prepared. The staff's good knowledge of the curriculum and how young children learn ensures that activities are well planned and relevant. Children want to participate and are eager to try out new activities, encouraged by all staff. Children share ideas and play together well. They genuinely enjoy learning, are proud of what they do and eager to share their new knowledge with adults. One parent commented, 'I particularly appreciate how all the learning is through play and how Chelwood fosters in children respect for others and enjoyment in joining in and having a go at trying new things.' Adult observations of what the children know and understand show the progress they make. Individual targets are then set from these observations and used to plan the next stage in children's learning; this is why children make such rapid progress. As yet, however, of assessment information is not used to identify if there is any variety in the performance of different groups of children and, if so, what can be done to support them.

### **Curriculum and other activities**

**Grade:**

The well-planned, rich and varied curriculum, promotes relevant and practical activities both inside and outdoors. The curriculum does much to develop children's independent learning and freedom of choice. Hands-on activities make learning fun and children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. Children with learning difficulties are fully integrated. There is good provision for those children at an early stage of learning English. There is scope, however, to adapt activities to provide further challenge for different groups of children. There are good links with other schools. Strong links with the local Sure Start also ensure that the community and nursery work together where possible. Visits out to local places of interest such as the library and a local cafe; enhance learning. Provision for personal, social and emotional development is outstanding.

## Care, guidance and support

### Grade:

Parents speak very highly of the care which their children receive. Several with children who are new to the nursery commented on how quickly their children have settled and how welcome they are made to feel. Following a questionnaire sent out to parents in the autumn term, the nursery has acted on their comments and has initiated effective ways of sharing individual children's progress with their parents. The introduction of 'look what I can do' record books is a delightful way of seeing the rapid progress children make and the wide variety of activities in which they participate. Parents and children feel very positive about this form of record of achievement. There is good provision for the health and safety of children. Staff know the children in their care well, and are trained in and have good knowledge of child protection procedures. Risk assessments are regularly carried out by the headteacher and caretaker. Key workers provide individual and small group support. Parents feel that they are much better informed now about their children's progress. There are good links between home and school encouraged through the use of the lending library and activity packs for home service, which are very popular with parents and children alike. Currently there is a baby group and a toddler group held weekly at the nursery but a lack of space has hindered the development of family learning.

## Leadership and management

### Grade:

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### **Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection**

Thank you for all your help when I visited your nursery. I enjoyed watching your lessons and your play and talking to some of you. You go to a good nursery.

This is what I found out: \* you behave very well and really like tackling new things \* you obviously enjoy all the activities the teachers set out for you to do \* the staff look after you well \* you make good progress in your learning and are always willing 'to have a go' \* your headteacher and all the staff work very well together as a team and provide you all with a good start to your education.

For your nursery to get even better staff need to check how well you are all doing to see if there is anything more that they can do to help you. I enjoyed meeting and talking to you very much.