



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 221559

DfES Number: 518512

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/12/2004  
Inspector Name Emma Louise Bright

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Ditton Lodge Community Nursery  
Setting Address St. Johns Avenue  
Crockfords Park  
Newmarket  
Suffolk  
CB8 8BL

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Ditton Lodge Community Nursery 1079799

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Ditton Lodge Community Nursery  
Address St John's Avenue  
Newmarket  
Cambridgeshire  
CB8 8BL

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and 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

Ditton Lodge Community Nursery has been established since the 1970s. It operates from a mobile building in the grounds of Ditton Lodge First School. It is situated in a residential area of Newmarket.

A maximum of 20 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open five days a week from 08:45 to 11:45 during school term times. All children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 16 children aged from 3 to 4 years on roll. Of these, 15 children receive funding for nursery education. Children mostly come from the local area. The nursery currently supports a small number of children with special educational needs.

The nursery employs four staff. Three of the staff, including the supervisor hold appropriate early years qualifications.

### How good is the Day Care?

Ditton Lodge Community Nursery provides good quality care for children.

The staff are very experienced and qualified and this means children benefit from being cared for by a well organised staff team. They provide a welcoming environment for the children in their care and children have access to a very good range of stimulating activities and resources. This ensures children are interested and active throughout the session. All documentation is in place. It is clear, detailed and implemented by the staff, which helps to underpin the good practice and ensures children's safety and well-being.

The staff demonstrate a sound awareness of safety issues and security is very good. Staff are vigilant in ensuring that children are safe during their play. Children are encouraged to learn about good hygiene practice through the daily routine. Staff provide children with a well-balanced range of snacks to help children understand

about healthy eating. However, children could have further opportunities to access regular drinks throughout the session. The staff have a good knowledge of child protection and effective procedures are in place to ensure children are kept safe.

The staff promote an inclusive ethos and enable children to learn about other cultures and beliefs; a good range of resources support this. Children with special educational needs are offered good support, enabling them to participate in all the activities offered. Staff use praise and encouragement very effectively to help children understand about good behaviour. They interact very well with the children, talk and listen respectfully to them and support the children particularly well in their activities.

The staff develop very good relationships with the parents. Comprehensive information is both gathered and shared with the parents so that children feel secure within the group. Parents are kept informed about the planned activities and are encouraged to approach the staff at any time.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable.

#### **What is being done well?**

- The staff are a skilled team. They have attended a wide range of training opportunities, which they clearly put into practice. This has a positive impact on the care and education of the children and ensures that staff are up-to-date on early years practice.
- The staff have very good relationships with the children. They ensure children have good opportunities to participate in all activities and lots of positive interaction means that children are highly confident and secure.
- Very good safety arrangements are in place and clearly implemented. The staff are particularly vigilant and skilled at helping children to understand about the dangers, which means children can play safely at all times.
- The staff have good behaviour management skills. They are consistent in their approach and set good examples so that children understand what is expected of them. Children respond well to the high expectations and their behaviour is good.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

The very good partnership with parents and carers ensures that children are cared for according to parents' wishes. Staff develop supportive relationships with the parents, for example they hold parenting classes in conjunction with the school to help meet the needs of parents. Parents have very good opportunities to meet with staff, where information is shared so they know about their child's progress.  
(Standard 12)

**What needs to be improved?**

- children's health, to ensure that children have further access to regular drinks throughout the session.

**Outcome of the inspection**

Good

**CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION**

*All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.*

*As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.*

**WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?****The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
8	Ensure that children have further access to regular drinks throughout the session.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Ditton Lodge Community Nursery is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. Staff have a secure understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum and use this knowledge to plan an excellent range of interesting and practical activities for children to experience. The staff are enthusiastic about how children learn and make good use of the environment and resources to stimulate children's interest. The staff use good questioning skills to encourage children to think and give them lots of opportunities to demonstrate what they know.

Assessments are in place and used to plan for the next steps in children's learning. Staff build very good relationships with the children and they know them well; children respond to their positive behaviour management. There is an effective system in place to support children with special educational needs.

Leadership and management is very good. The nursery supervisor offers effective support and leadership and is committed to providing a high quality learning environment. High importance is placed on the training and development of staff, which ensures the team are motivated to develop the setting. The staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities; they work well together to offer children a very good early years experience. With the support of a well-organised committee, this ensures the smooth running of the setting.

The partnership with parents is very good and staff have established supportive relationships with parents. Parents receive good, on-going information about the Foundation Stage curriculum and their child's progress and achievements. Staff encourage parents to share their knowledge of their children, and to be involved in their learning. Very good links have been established with the school, and this ensures a smooth transition from nursery to school, for children and parents.

### What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is the highlight of the group. Children are happy, relaxed and respond well to the very good adult support. The staff offer the children lots of praise and encouragement and are skilled in helping children become confident and independent.
- Children's communications skills are very good; they are confident and articulate with adults and visitors. Children enjoy speaking to a familiar group, sharing their news with others and they are developing a wide vocabulary.
- Children's fine motor skills are developing very well; a wide range of resources and activities support this and ensures their early writing skills are promoted.

- The staffs' sound knowledge of the Foundation Stage curriculum, and of how children learn, enable them to meet each child's needs very well, including those with special educational needs.

**What needs to be improved?**

- further opportunities for children to design and construct from a range of materials on a regular basis.

**What has improved since the last inspection?**

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. Children have good opportunities to link letters to sounds through a range of resources and activities, which encourages the development of their early literacy skills. Planning has been improved to show how the activities are linked to the six areas of learning and this ensures that the breadth of the curriculum is covered.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children form very good relationships with adults and each other; they confidently express their ideas and opinions. They display high levels of confidence and self-reliance, which is carefully nurtured by staff. Children concentrate well, persevering with tasks and staff offer good support so they continue to develop this skill. Children share resources and co-operate well with each other. They demonstrate very good personal independence skills and awareness of their own needs.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's language skills are developing very well; they speak confidently to a familiar audience and have good opportunities to practise this skill. They enjoy listening to stories and selecting from the good range of books to read or locate information. Children have good opportunities to link letters to sounds and show a good awareness of rhyme and alliteration. They expertly make marks during role-play and throughout many of the activities offered; their early writing skills are emerging.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are proficient at counting and recognising numerals in their play, and in the many well-planned opportunities which develop this skill. Staff develop children's understanding of simple calculations through planned and daily activities. Children use appropriate vocabulary to describe size and shape and use positional language in their play. They use mathematical concepts to problem solve and staff provide interesting activities to help children learn about estimation and capacity.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to use their observational skills to explore the environment and nature. Visitors to the group further support learning. Children enjoy investigating objects and are inquisitive to learn how things work; they are competent users of the computer. Children enjoy talking about significant events and have good opportunities to talk about the things that are important to them. They have less opportunities to design and construct on a regular basis.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children move freely with confidence and enjoyment. They competently negotiate pathways safely as they steer their tricycles and scooters around obstacles. Children use a range of small tools and equipment in a variety of activities with increasing control. They have lots of good opportunities to develop their physical skills. Children know about the importance of staying healthy and have developed a good awareness of healthy practices and of their own needs.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore colour, texture and through a range of interesting, practical activities, both child and adult-led. They make particularly good use of the free painting activity. Children enjoy a range of songs and rhymes, joining in enthusiastically with a range of musical instruments, and explore their imagination in movement and dance. Children draw on their experiences and imagination in lots of role-play, which is well-resourced to re-enact familiar scenarios.

**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:
- enhance opportunities for children to design and construct from a range of materials on a regular basis.

*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.*

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON**

*Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.*

### **STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION**

*The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.*

### **STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY**

*The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.*

### **STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

*The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.*

### **STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT**

*Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.*

### **STANDARD 6 - SAFETY**

*The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.*

### **STANDARD 7 - HEALTH**

*The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.*

### **STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK**

*Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.*

### **STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.*

### **STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

*The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is*

*proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.*

#### **STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR**

*Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.*

#### **STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

*The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.*

#### **STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION**

*The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.*

#### **STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION**

*Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.*