



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT**

**URN 109311**

**DfES Number: 520856**

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date      17/06/2004  
Inspector Name      Bridget Richardson

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type      Full Day Care  
Setting Name      Robin Hill Nursery  
Setting Address      23 Fairfield Road  
                                 Eastbourne  
                                 East Sussex  
                                 BN20 7NA

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name                      Mrs Karen Edgerton

## 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

Robin Hill Nursery opened in 1989. It operates from the ground and first floor of a large house in a residential area of Eastbourne and serves the local community.

There are currently 152 children from 2 to 8 years on roll. This includes 40 funded 3 year olds and 31 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery is open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday throughout the year with children attending a variety of sessions. The nursery also offer after school care for children from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Six full-time and four part-time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One staff member is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

The standard and quality of care at Robin Hill Nursery is good. There is an effective operational plan in place that guides the staff team in their dally practice. Good safety measures are in place and children are safe and well cared for, however privacy for children attending the after school club needs to improve. Over the lunch period adult to child ratios require improvement to ensure adequate staff are working directly with the children.

Staff in all areas of the provision form warm, caring relationships with the children, however some children with special needs do not always receive the appropriate support. They plan and provide an interesting, worthwhile range of activities and children are generally making good progress in all areas of learning and development. The observations and recording on what children know and can do requires improvement to ensure children's learning is extended throughout the

nursery. There is a wide selection of toys and resources which are well organised to support children's learning and development.

There is an effective relationship with parents and they are provided with information about the nursery and their child. The regular exchange of information on children's progress ensures that their individual needs are well met. All the relevant paperwork is in place.

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

At the last inspection the nursery agreed to update policies and procedures. To ensure staffing ratios are maintained at all times and to ensure that unvetted persons are never left alone with children. All policies and procedures have been updated and unvetted persons do not have unsupervised access to children.

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

- Adults are interested in what children say and do.
- Warm, welcoming environment for parents and children which is well maintained and of an appropriate temperature.
- Wide range of play equipment, easily accessible and suitable for age range cared for.
- Staff are consistent and have clear strategies for dealing with behaviour issues.
- Positive steps are in place to promote safety in the setting.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the adult: child ratio
- the observations and records on children aged 2 to 3 years
- the toilet facilities
- the special needs procedures.

#### **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?

<b>The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection</b>	
Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure adult:child ratios relate to staff time available to work directly with children.
10	Ensure suitable arrangements and staff are in place for the care of children attending with special educational needs.
3	Ensure observations and records are maintained on children 2 to 3 years identifying what a child knows, understands and can do.
4	Ensure the dignity and privacy of children is respected when using the toilet facilities

## 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 Robin Hill Nursery is acceptable and of good quality. The children are making generally good progress in all areas of learning. Progress in mathematical and physical development is very good. Children are confident and motivated to learn.

The overall quality of teaching has significant weaknesses. Staff listen and respond to what children say and question them effectively to extend their knowledge. They have not however, completed any formal training in the Curriculum guidance to the Foundation stage. Effective observations and assessments on children are not completed to identify what children know and understand, and therefore planning does not always meet children's individual needs. Assessment of children who have special educational needs is irregular and targets are not frequently set.

Leadership and management is generally good. Effective systems are in place for staff inductions and appraisals and staff work well as a team and communicate effectively with each other. However, the management team do not evaluate sessions and activities in order to look at the quality of the nursery provision.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed about the nurseries activities and routines. There are effective systems in place to ensure that information about the child's progress is shared. Parents report satisfaction with the provision and find the staff to be approachable.

### What is being done well?

- Children's language skills are good. They are confident in interaction with staff and can express themselves clearly.
- Children's progress in mathematics is developing well. Many opportunities are provided throughout the day to extend children's knowledge.
- Children work well independently and co-operate well when working as a group.
- Staff question children effectively, encouraging them to think and contribute their ideas.

### What needs to be improved?

- observations and assessment process of children so that children's individual learning needs are well matched to activities.
- opportunities to extend children's hand writing skills to ensure more able children are fully extended.

- the organisation and structure of activities to ensure children are able to use their imagination and explore
- staff knowledge of planning and completing observations and assessments.

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

At the last inspection the nursery agreed to provide a book corner for children so that they could choose books. To make assessments available for parents to read and to provide apparatus and opportunities for children to develop their skills in balancing. A book corner for children is in place where they can choose books. Parents are aware of assessments kept on their children and can access them. Children are given opportunities to develop their skills in balancing through planned activities.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children arrive and settle quickly they are confident in leaving carers. At group time children are able to listen to each other and are aware of the need to take turns and share. Children work well independently and co-operate well when working as a group. Children do not always play an active role in their learning. Some activities are too structured, adult led and prescriptive.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Staff question children effectively encouraging them to think and contribute their own ideas. At story time children listen keenly to stories and are able to anticipate and predict what is going to happen next. Children's spoken language is developing well. They learn to negotiate well and to express their imagined experiences. Opportunities for children to write are not freely available, adults do not give children the opportunities or encouragement to practice.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident in using and recognising numbers 1-9 in familiar context and learn about addition and subtraction through practical activities. They are offered a wide range of worthwhile activities to practice their skills. Children confidently recognise and identify shapes and size in everyday situations and discuss confidently with adults.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are confident in using information technology and have access to two computers which they use with ease. Children enjoy using their senses to explore objects in practical activities and adults question children effectively to make them think. However, limited opportunities are available for children to develop their skills in design.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy using a good range of outside play equipment and move confidently and safely during outside play. They show good co-ordination and are developing skill in balancing, jumping, throwing and catching. A wide range of opportunities are in place for children to handle tools, and they are showing increasing control and are able to use them safely.

## **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy participating in singing sessions and regularly explore sound and musical instruments. They are confident at naming instruments. Children have good imaginations and are able to put imagined stories in to words to share with others. At times, children are unable to use their imagination to explore creativity. Structured activities tend to be pre-prepared, adult led and prescriptive.

**Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.**

## **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES**

- Observations and assessment process of children so that children's individual learning needs are well matched to activities.
- Opportunities to extend children's hand writing skills to ensure more able children are fully extended.
- The organisation and structure of activities to ensure children are able to use their imagination and explore.
- Staff knowledge of planning and completing observations and assessments.

*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.*