



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY232048

DfES Number: 540046

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/02/2005  
Inspector Name Gerry Simonds

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Heathcote House Nursery School  
Setting Address The Green  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 5AA

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Partnership of Keith and Jean Hudson  
Address Heathcote House, Southbroom Road  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 5AA

## 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

Heathcote House Nursery School is situated in Devizes. It is in a house which has been adapted to cater for children aged three months to five years. The nursery is registered to care for 18 children aged three months to two years and 45 children aged three to five years. There are, at present, 14 funded three-year-olds and 16 funded four-year-olds. The Nursery is open all year round except for a week at Christmas and Bank Holidays, from 08.00 to 18.00 hours. The baby unit has two rooms dedicated to play and a further two rooms for rest and play activities. The main Nursery has a main play room, a quiet room for more advanced teaching activities and a smaller play room for the younger children. There is a fully equipped kitchen where meals are prepared for the children and suitable toilet and wash facilities, as well as a staff room. The Principal is a qualified teacher and the majority of the remaining staff have appropriate childcare qualifications, five at level three and two at level two.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Heathcote House Nursery School is of high quality and children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. Staff speak clearly to children and explain very carefully. Praise is given for good work or appropriate behaviour. Plans are very thorough and closely linked to the stepping stones of the foundation stage of learning. Staff give good support to children with special needs and to those who have English as an additional language. Staff have a very consistent approach to managing behaviour and children are well behaved. Sometimes staff put out the activities for the children to choose from although children show that they are capable of doing this, especially first thing in the morning. Assessment is thorough and is used for future plans, however parents do not add to these in written form.

Leadership and management is very good. The principal is a qualified teacher and leads well by example. She is a hands on teacher and provides good first hand experiences for the children. All policies and procedures are in place and staff deployment is good. The staff have undertaken a recognised quality assurance scheme and have used this to look closely at their practice. This has helped them to monitor their own progress and provision. All staff are committed to doing the best for children. Appraisals are undertaken and targets and goals set for individuals.

There is a very good partnership with parents. Parents appreciate the feedback sheets that they receive, which help them to understand the progress that children are making. They are able to see planning which is displayed for them and in this way feel involved in what the children are doing. Parents evenings are to be held soon and regular newsletters are sent out. Parents are also given suggestions for activities to be carried out at home which enhance the learning in the nursery.

### What is being done well?

- The very good ethos within the group which leads to happy contented children and a welcoming atmosphere for all.
- The many good first hand experiences provided for the children. For example, instead of talking about rough and smooth, the children went into the garden to look for rough and smooth objects previously planted by the teacher. This made the learning fun and more worthwhile.
- The strong leadership of the group, where the teacher leads by good example. Other less experienced staff are able to learn from this on a daily basis.
- The way that staff extend the children's language and give children good opportunities to discuss.

- The well planned programme. This enables children to make good all round progress.
- Support for children with special needs and English as an additional language where staff involve parents well to work in partnership.
- The very positive parental partnership which keeps parents well informed and involved in the learning thus enhancing the overall educational programme.

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

- the opportunity for children to make more choices of activity
- the chance for parents to add to ongoing assessments in written form.

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

Progress since the last inspection is very good.

The group were asked to:

Date all assessments and evaluate the educational programme.

All assessments are dated now and staff evaluate the activities carried out.

They were also asked to consider how to keep parents well informed on the progress their children are making. Also to consider the ways that parents can contribute to children's ongoing assessments.

Parents are well informed now with written sheets on attainment and the activities covered. They also contribute verbally to assessment.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, contented and interested in all that is offered. They are able to concentrate well and are able to sit quietly. Relationships are good and children share well as they play at the sand or build with large bricks. They are taught to think of others. For example, they visit an old people's home to sing songs or deliver harvest produce. They enjoy a variety of festivals, for example, photographs show them performing their dragon dance.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to talk and discuss in small groups. They use speech well to tell their news or to play in role play areas. They are learning letter sounds and reading simple words. Language is extended very well as they talk of opposites and are able to name several of these. They are able to write their names and have opportunity to write for a purpose in the role play area. A good variety of books is provided, both fiction and non fiction, and children listen well to stories.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children say and use numbers regularly, they solve simple problems, for example, working out how many cups are needed. They are getting a good understanding of early, practical addition and subtraction as they count the number of boys then girls then add the two together or take one away. Mathematical language is used naturally as they talk of sets or shape or use the directional computer programme.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Good first hand experiences are used. Children visit the local area regularly, for example, they go on a canal trip, a woodland walk and a visit to Devizes museum. They are growing bulbs in the classroom and feed the birds in the garden. They build and construct with a variety of materials and use recyclable materials to make models. They use computers, tape recorders and calculators and are developing knowledge of early technology well. They enjoy a well planned programme of festivals.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to move with control and good co-ordination. They balance and climb and show good awareness of space. They use a good range of equipment both indoors and out and handle such tools as rolling pins and cutters with increasing skill when cooking or playing with dough. They show good physical skills when icing biscuits. They are learning to be aware of health issues such as the need to wash their hands and the importance of sleep.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Good opportunities are made for children to express themselves. Their art work is mature and of good standard. They respond very well to all that is offered, for example, doing crayon rubbings in the garden or painting freely in the classroom. They enjoy good role play and playing musical instruments. They sing with enthusiasm and confidence, for example, about being young musicians, and can repeat sounds and patterns made by adults.

**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:
- consider allowing children to put out the activities themselves
- explore ways of encouraging parents to add to records and assessments in written form.

*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.*