

# Ovingdean Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	130756
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Fler Wright
<b>Setting Address</b>	The Church Room, Ovingdean Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 7BB
<b>Telephone number</b>	01273 302 991
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Judith Hodkinson
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Ovingdean Nursery School opened in 1993 and is privately owned. It operates from a local hall, in Ovingdean, near Brighton, East Sussex. There is a secure outdoor play area available. The nursery is open during term time every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 09:00 to 12:00, and every Monday and Tuesday there is the opportunity to stay for lunch until 13:00.

A maximum of 16 children may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 15 children aged from two to under five years on roll. The group are not in receipt of nursery education grant funding. There are children on roll with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and they are well supported. Staff are also able to support children with English as an additional language.

The nursery employs three staff. Of these two of the staff, including the owner/manager hold appropriate child care qualifications.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally encouraged to learn how to keep themselves healthy. They are able to wash their hands after using the toilet, but are not encouraged to do so before they eat their snack, increasing the risk of the spread of infection. Children visit the toilet independently. They have access to a clean and hygienic environment that staff clean daily. Tables are wiped with anti-bacterial spray and new cloths are used in the kitchen every day helping to minimise the spread of germs. Staff gather all relevant information regarding diet and medical history, which helps to ensure children's individual needs are met. Staff are beginning to promote self selection of tissues, helping children to think about their personal needs.

Children enjoy a variety of nutritious healthy snacks that include a wide range of fruit, helping to encourage them to develop healthy eating habits. Staff help to teach children about the foods that are good and bad for their bodies through topics, such as healthy eating. Drinks are always available for the children, helping to encourage their independence whilst allowing them to decide for themselves if they are thirsty.

Children enjoy a range of activities that develop their physical skills and contribute to keeping them healthy. They make very good use of the garden and the equipment contained within it, and their physical skills are developing well as a result.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children have access to a clean and welcoming environment with displays of their work showing that staff value their contributions. They have free access to all areas of the nursery and independently move between the main play space and creative area to carry out self chosen activities. The rooms and tables are set up with a wealth of equipment that meets their developmental needs. Resources are organised, well labelled and easily accessible to all children. Staff alternate the resources, activities and experiences many times during each session helping to ensure children have access to a very good variety of things to do.

Staff have recently put away cushions forming a comfy area for children to play in, so presently children have to sit at tables or on the floor during their play. They are quite happy with this arrangement although it means there is no space for children to relax and play comfortably should they wish to do so.

Staff have a good understanding of safety issues as the nursery is a very safe environment for the children. They learn how to keep themselves safe on outings and on the roads through topics and discussion with staff. If a potential hazard is identified, such as when hot drinks are brought out for staff in the garden, children are asked to stop what they are doing. They listen with intent to staff who explain what the potential risk is, where it is and how to make sure they do not come to any harm. Staff deployment is effective and helps to ensure children are well-supervised and safe at all times. The premises are very secure, with a door bell entry system, helping to monitor who enters the building.

Staff have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care. This ensures they quickly recognise

when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interests. All suspicions are recorded although not all existing injuries that are discussed with parents are noted.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed, confident and enjoy their play. They relate well to staff, and confidently approach them for support indicating trusting relationships are built. Staff refer to the children as each other's friends, helping to promote positive feelings and effective associations.

Staff spend time working one to one with children on activities that relate directly to children's interests, meaning children are exceptionally enthusiastic and keen to learn. They spend time concentrating on self-chosen activities. Staff add extra resources to sand during play, and hide 'treasure' to make it more exciting for the children. Water play is well resourced, and children enjoy playing with brushes, cups and pipettes.

The nursery is small and intimate as there are few children on roll. The atmosphere is calm and relaxed and this means children are able to thrive in the tranquil environment. The two main staff have been working at the setting for many years and know the children exceptionally well. All of the activities and experiences are adapted in order to ensure children's differing abilities are taken heed of to ensure they gain the most out of them.

Children eagerly help to tidy away. They have access to good quality, stimulating toys that provide balance and challenge. They are organised to encourage children to take initiative and develop increasing confidence and independence as they are easily accessible at all times.

The setting have chosen not to take receipt of nursery education funding although the manager is a qualified teacher and has a secure knowledge of the Foundation Stage. The curriculum on offer ensures that each area of learning is covered regularly resulting in a good, balanced range of activities that are available for children to participate in.

Staff know each child very well and are very enthusiastic in their interaction with them. Their genuine caring nature helps children to thrive in the nursery environment. They spend time playing with children, helping them to develop new skills and make progress in their learning. They increase children's self-esteem by the constant use of positive interaction, and use effective questioning and make helpful statements in order to further promote children's learning and development.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect and are made to feel good about themselves. Displays of their work and easily accessible resources help to give them an important sense of belonging. Staff encourage all children to participate in the activities provided which ensures they each have an equal opportunity to maximise their enjoyment and potential. There are a range of resources and activities available to promote diversity, helping children to increase their understanding of anti-discriminatory practice and the wider world. Children and parents are taking part in the 'Link Romania Shoebox Appeal' which helps them to think about those not as fortunate as themselves and learn about other cultures.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are very well supported and are made to feel like an important part of the group. Specialist workers are employed in order to ensure children feel integrated and their individual needs are well met.

Children are well behaved and benefit from lots of praise and encouragement from staff to help build their confidence and self-esteem. Children show an understanding of working co-operatively, of each other's needs and of responsible behaviour as they share popular resources, such as puzzles and books, and they are willing to help each other and wait their turn. Staff use positive methods to manage children's behaviour and address concerns quickly.

Staff encourage a communicative relationship with parents. Parents are very happy with the care provided. Regular newsletters and regular informal discussions help parents feel involved in their child's learning. The 'home books' that staff complete are an excellent way of ensuring parents know what their children have been doing at nursery. Staff include photos, observations and general news, and parents are encouraged to add to the records to help establish a good partnership. All children also have a key-ring of photos in their book bags that show them participating in the activities and experiences at the nursery. These are added to regularly. Photos of the staff and the nursery itself are also included helping to further encourage the links between nursery and home life. All of the required permissions are in place helping to ensure children are cared for according to parental wishes.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

There are a good range of policies and procedures in place that help to ensure the safe and effective management of the setting in order to promote children's welfare. A very small number of these require updating in order to promote best practice.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment where they receive good adult support to help ensure they gain the most from the experiences on offer, whilst encouraging their security and confidence. Staff are well deployed which helps to ensure children are well-supervised and safe.

Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They are dedicated and show a genuine care for the children in attendance. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the nursery were asked to update their policies and procedures in line with current guidance and legislation. Staff have since updated these, helping to further safeguard the welfare of the children in attendance, although a very small number require updating in order to promote best practice.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

#### The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure hand washing routines are encouraged before children eat
- recreate a comfortable area where children are able to play and relax should they wish to do so
- make minor updates to policies and procedures to promote best practice

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)