



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 110494

DfES Number: 594870

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	23/02/2004
Inspector Name	Deborah, Jean Watton

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Oliver's Battery Preschool
Setting Address	Austen Avenue Oliver's Battery Winchester Hampshire SO22 4HP

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Oliver's Battery Pre School Committee
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Oliver's Battery Pre School Committee
Address	Olivers Battery Primary School Austen Avenue, Oliver's Battery Winchester Hampshire SO22 4HP

## 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

Oliver's Battery Preschool opened in 1999. It operates from a wooden hut on the premises of Oliver's Battery County Primary school. The preschool serves mainly the local area.

There are currently 23 children from two years nine months to five years on roll. This includes 11 funded 3 year olds and 5 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is able to support children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The preschool opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 until 11:45 Monday to Friday and 12:50 until 15:20 Monday and Wednesday.

Two 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 member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

Oliver's Battery Preschool provides good quality childcare.

Staff regularly attend training courses to update and improve their skills. They create an attractive environment where children have easy access to a wide range of stimulating, well maintained resources. Children are encouraged to explore their surroundings and make choices about what they do. They have access to an enclosed outdoor area, use of the school hall and enjoy supervised trips around the school grounds. All documentation is in place and parental confidentiality is maintained.

Staff talk to children about safety and regularly practise fire drill to ensure all children become familiar with the procedure. Most safety issues have been addressed. Staff

talk to parents about dietary requirements and special needs in order to cater for individual requirements. They provide nutritious snacks and talk to children about healthy eating and good hygiene practices.

The preschool provides a wide range of resources and organises activities to ensure each child is able to develop skills across the curriculum. Resources include posters, books and toys which reflect positive images of gender and culture, however, resources reflecting positive images of disability are limited. Children respond well to praise and encouragement and behaviour is good.

Staff develop good, open relationships with parents who are well informed about their child's progress and plans for the next stage of their development. Parents are informed about the preschool's daily activities and procedures through welcome packs, newsletters and notice boards. They are encouraged to take an active role in the running of the preschool by volunteering as parent helpers, committee members and fundraisers.

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

Conditions raised at the last inspection:

Obtain a copy of the planning permission. The preschool have complied with this.

Electrical appliances and fittings conform to safety requirements. The preschool have addressed most of these points appropriately, although the free standing heater is a potential hazard to children.

Comply with the recommendations of the Fire Officer and obtain relevant certificates. The preschool has complied with all recommendations made and have the appropriate certificates.

Complete the first aid kit and have medication consent forms in operation. The preschool has a complete first aid kit and have medication forms in operation.

The nominated person to have a copy of the Area Child Protection Committee procedures. The preschool has complied with this.

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

- Staff create a warm, welcoming environment where the walls are decorated with children's artwork and attractive posters. Good use has been made of the limited space with furniture arranged to provide separate areas for activities like story telling, role play and craft work.
- Staff provide a wide range of resources. They know children well and plan activities which enable them to develop their interests and extend their skills across the curriculum.
- Staff use effective strategies for behaviour management and support children with special needs. They work closely with parents and outside agencies and

take account of each child's understanding and stage of development.

- Staff develop positive relationships with parents who are provided with formal and informal opportunities to share what they know about their child and be involved in every aspect of their care.

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

- security of the premises to ensure children are unable to leave without supervision and that staff are able to vet adults wishing to enter
- safety of free standing heating appliances
- resources reflecting positive images of disability.

#### **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
6	Ensure the security of staff and children on the premises whilst maintaining required fire exits and ensure the safety of all free standing heating appliances.
9	Provide a wider range of resources reflecting positive images of disability.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Oliver's Battery Preschool provides high quality nursery education. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in the six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. The staff team work well together, planning a stimulating range of activities and promoting children's independence and self-esteem. They know children well and have a clear understanding of how they learn. They use a comprehensive assessment system to plan the next stage of development for each child. Staff have a sound knowledge of the early learning goals and use resources and a variety of teaching methods to promote learning in all areas. They use effective strategies for behaviour management which are consistent and take account of each child's understanding and stage of development. As a result behaviour is very good.

Leadership and management of the setting are very good. Staff are deployed effectively and provided with clear information about their objectives. The voluntary committee encourage staff to attend regular training to update and improve skills. The supervisor constantly monitors and evaluates the programme of nursery education, updating and adjusting procedures to enhance the provision. The setting is committed to improving care and education for all children and is currently working towards accreditation on a recognised quality assurance programme.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed about the preschool's policies and procedures through welcome packs, newsletters and notice boards. They are encouraged to share what they know about their child before they attend preschool and throughout their stay. They are updated about their child's progress through informal and formal discussions with staff. Parents have opportunities to be involved in the day to day running of the preschool as parent helpers, committee members or fundraisers.

### What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is fostered by staff who listen to what children say and value each child's thoughts and ideas. In response, children's listening skills and concentration are very good.
- Staff make good use of resources to provide a balanced range of activities which stimulate children's senses enabling them to pursue their interests and develop their skills.
- The management committee and staff work effectively together to monitor and develop the provision. They have developed strong links with their host school, introducing children to the staff and using their hall for physical activities.

- Staff develop good, open relationships with parents who feel very comfortable discussing their child's progress and development in a relaxed environment.

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

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:-
- opportunities for children to use large equipment to develop their climbing skills.

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

The preschool has made generally good progress since the last inspection. They have provided a wider range of resources to support children's learning in several areas, for example, the provision of construction materials has been improved. Children now have more opportunities to use a range of large and small equipment, playing regularly with items like balls and beanbags and practising balancing skills on beams and stepping stones. However, opportunities for children to use large equipment to practise climbing skills are still limited.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are actively involved in their learning. They are confident, work well independently and in groups and show high levels of concentration. They develop caring relationships with adults and other children, learning to co-operate in their play. As a result, self-esteem is high and behaviour is good. Children enjoy many opportunities to make choices about what they do, for example, they choose activities and select resources, snacks and drinks.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's spoken language develops well. They learn to negotiate and express their imagined experiences during a range of role-play situations. They have many opportunities to link sounds to letters and to understand that print carries meaning. They listen avidly to stories and many children can read their names. Children recognise situations when writing is used and frequently attempt writing during role-play, for example, making menus. More able children learn to write their names.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children learn how to use numbers in everyday situations like counting the children present at registration or snack time. They recognise numerals one to nine and many children count confidently to ten. Children learn the language of addition and subtraction during daily activities and they enjoy singing number songs and rhymes. They develop an understanding of shape, position, size and quantity during activities like sand and water play and through using a good range of construction toys.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are encouraged to explore their surroundings and talk in detail about themselves and the world around them. They learn about living things through activities like growing plants. Children are confident using information technology and have access to a range of computer programmes. They learn about their local environment through topic work, looking at buildings and discussing the seasons. They learn about different cultures and beliefs through discussion and making craft items.

## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children demonstrate a good sense of space and move confidently during physical activities. They enjoy opportunities to use their imagination during music and movement sessions. They learn about health and develop a sense of bodily awareness during everyday activities like snack time and outdoor play. Children are skilled at using a variety of large equipment and, however, opportunities to develop climbing skills are limited. They confidently use tools like pencils, scissors and glue sticks.

## **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy many opportunities to create models and pictures to their own designs using a good range of resources. They enjoy participating in singing sessions and regularly explore sound and musical instruments. They are encouraged to use their imagination and express their ideas through music and movement, story telling and role-play. Children respond with all their senses to many experiences, such as tasting and smelling food and touching a range of contrasting textures.

**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 key issues to address, but consideration should be given to improving the following:-
- provide more opportunities for children to use large equipment to develop their climbing skills.

*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.*