



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 501095

DfES Number: 545448

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	23/03/2004
Inspector Name	Lisa Patterson

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Old Hutton Pre-School
Setting Address	Old Hutton Village Hall Old Hutton Kendal Cumbria LA8 0NQ

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Old Hutton Pre-School
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Old Hutton Pre-School
Address	Old Hutton Village Hall Old Hutton Kendal Cumbria LA8 0NQ

## 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

Old Hutton Preschool has been in operation from its current premises for three years and a playgroup for two to three year olds began in September 2003. The preschool have the use of the local village hall which is situated within the school grounds, close to the parish church, on the outskirts of the village. It provides sessional care for children in the local area though some travel from further afield. Session times for preschool children are from 09:00 till 11:30 from Monday to Friday and from the playgroup, from 13:00 till 15:15 on Monday and Wednesday. Sessions operate for 33 weeks of the year. There are currently 22 children on the register, of whom, 20 are in receipt of government funding. There are no children for whom English is an additional language or who have been identified as having special educational needs.

Rooms used by the preschool include the meeting room and entrance hallway which are used for most activities. There is a large hall which is used occasionally and a kitchen which children access only during a supervised activity. Toilet facilities are accesses from the main entrance hallway. There is a large enclosed outdoor play area laid to lawn and hard standing which the preschool share with the school.

There are two members of staff employed, both of whom hold a level III qualification in childcare. There is an active parent rota to supplement staffing and maintain high ratios.

### How good is the Day Care?

The overall quality of childcare is good. The staff team work well together, led by a manager who holds a level III qualification and a committee of parents. There is a commitment to further professional development and staff are encouraged to update their knowledge and skills by attending further training. Staff and committee members are clear about their roles and responsibilities and regular meetings keep them informed of changes to procedures. Documentation is up to date though some policies require attention.

Staff have a sound understanding of safety issues with regard to the physical environment and equipment and regular safety check are carried out both inside and out, prior to children gaining access. Staff regularly update training in Child Protection and other key areas. Snacks and drinks are nutritious and varied and individual needs are well catered for, ensuring children receive appropriate food and drink.

A warm, welcoming environment is created and children appear settled and secure. Displays of children's work and commercial posters adorn the walls of the meeting room, creating a stimulating environment. Children have free access to an extensive range of resources which develops their independence and social skills. Staff show a good understanding of equal opportunities issues and have a sound understanding of the children's backgrounds, ensuring their individual needs can be met.

There is a commitment to developing and maintaining strong links with parents and they are provided with a wealth of information about the provision as a whole and their individual child's development on a regular basis. They are encouraged to contribute to the parent's rota system through which they gain first hand experience about life in the preschool/playgroup.

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

Not applicable

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

- Partnership with parents is very well managed. They are provided with relevant and interesting information prior to their child starting, there is a flexible settling in period for new starters and information about the provision as a whole and individual children is provided regularly either in written form or verbally. Their views are valued. Such measures ensure all parties are happy with the provision both in terms of education and safety.
- Activities are stimulating and motivating and enhance the learning and understanding of the children, both academically and socially. Resources are well maintained and organised to allow independent access, through which children can develop a sense of responsibility.
- Behaviour management techniques are appropriate and effective and consistently applied. Manners are encouraged at all times and a calm atmosphere of mutual respect has been created through which children take responsibility for their own actions.
- Varied and nutritious snacks are offered and children sit together to eat which creates a social environment. Snacks include tasting foods from different parts of the world which develops an understanding about equal opportunities issues.
- Safety issues are well monitored and any identified issues are acted upon as a priority, which may include making requests to the village hall committee.

**What needs to be improved?**

- information contained in some policies to ensure they are in line with current practice and 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?****The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
14	Revise policies to ensure they reflect current practice, specifically, Health and Hygiene, Child Protection and Special Educational Needs.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Children at Old Hutton Pre-school are making very good progress in all six areas of learning.

Teaching is very good. Staff have a clear understanding of the Foundation Stage guidance and the six areas of learning. They are enthusiastic and energetic and offer a range of innovative and exciting experiences. Children have access to a wide selection of free play and directed activities which are regularly changed to ensure motivation levels are maintained. The main play spaces have been organised to offer different types of play. Required planning and assessment is available and is used effectively in providing children with a broad, balanced curriculum and progression through the stepping stones. Children do not have sufficient access to ICT equipment. Staff have high but realistic expectations of children's behaviour and encourage respect for each other and property.

Leadership and management are very good. Staff and the committee are fully aware of their differing roles within the setting and work well together. Further professional development is encouraged and facilitated, and staff regularly update their knowledge and understanding through attendance at training events. Continuity of care ensures children and returning parents are confident about the quality of care and are settled. Continuous monitoring of the setting, both of the curriculum and practical issues, takes place and parents views are well received and acted upon where necessary.

Partnership with parents is very good. They receive detailed information about the setting and educational provision prior to the children starting and weekly plans and ideas for home activities are displayed. There is a flexible settling in procedure and the manager carries out home visits to gain an oversight of the child and develop their confidence. There are a number of initiatives for parents to take an active role in the preschool for example, diary books, teddy bear diary and feedback about development.

### What is being done well?

- A wide selection of innovative, exciting and motivating activities and experiences are offered to the children and displays are used well to stimulate further learning and understanding.
- Resources are very well organised and labelled where possible to allow children to develop independence through free choice and exploration.
- A wealth of information about the setting is given to parents prior to leaving their child and throughout the year. Parent's views and knowledge about their child is valued and used to offer appropriate care and education.

- The staff team and committee are committed to developing the educational provision and professional understanding through training, meetings and regular consultation and feedback from parents.
- Staff interactions with children are excellent. They have high expectations of behaviour and what children can achieve and continually challenge their thinking and learning. Children respond well to these interactions and there is an atmosphere of mutual respect.

**What needs to be improved?**

- access to ICT equipment, including programmable toys and the computer, on a more regular basis.

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

Not applicable.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are motivated to learn, they try new activities with confidence and concentrate for extended periods. Relationships between peers and adults are good, they show respect for one another, the premises and resources. Children are well behaved and manners are encouraged at all times. They are able to share and take turns and this is reinforced throughout the session. Personal independence is encouraged and children are able to select and pour their own drinks, and wash their hands.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to recognise their names and some can recognise those of others. Children are confident to talk as part of a large group which is encouraged through general discussion and a regular show and tell activity. They show confidence with writing and there are many opportunities available through which they can write independently, for example, during role play. Recall skills are very good and children are able to retell stories with confidence.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children show an understanding of mathematical concepts such as addition and subtraction which are practiced during daily routine activities, songs and rhymes and planned activities. Children learn about pattern making, shape, space and measure, and solve problems through a wide range of exciting activities and show increasing competence in these areas. Children are able to count to 10 and some beyond. Many are able to recognise numerals.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Objects and materials are investigated during every session and children identify and describe features of living things and objects. They are able to express their likes and dislikes. Children identify features of the local environment through regular walks outside, visits to local attractions and landmarks including the church. Children show an awareness of respecting individual differences and are introduced to different cultures through topics. Regular access to ICT equipment is limited.

<b>PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children develop balancing and travelling skills through planned activities and use of the outdoor area. Children are aware of their own space and that of others and move safely both indoors and outdoors. Children show a developing understanding of different food groups and the need for a balanced diet in order to stay healthy which is reinforced through planned activities and impromptu discussions. They are competent in the use of small and larger tools and equipment.	

<b>CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children explore a wide range of media and colour through activities and their work is attractively displayed and used to enhance further learning. Music plays a large part in the session and children participate with enjoyment in songs and rhymes. Musicians are also invited into the setting to give children an appreciation of more complicated instruments and sounds. Children use all senses to explore a variety of experiences and materials.	

<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>
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### **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 the following point should be considered in the action plan:
- Make ICT equipment more regularly available to children.

*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.*