



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 509003

DfES Number:

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	18/01/2005
Inspector Name	Jennifer Devine

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	HERGA OPPORTUNITY PLAYGROUP
Setting Address	NORTHOLT ROAD COMMUNAL HALL NORTHOLT ROAD SOUTH HARROW MIDDLESEX HA2 0NR

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of The Committee of the Herga Opportunity Playgroup
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Committee of the Herga Opportunity Playgroup
Address	Communal Halls Northolt Road South Harrow Middlesex HA2 0NR

## 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

Herga Opportunity Playgroup opened over 25 years ago. It is situated in the community centre in South Harrow. A maximum of 25 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The playgroup is open each weekday from 09:30 to 12:00, term time only. All children share access to a secure outdoor area.

There are currently 30 children from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these 18 children receive funding for nursery education. Eight of the places are reserved for children with special educational needs who are referred by the Education department. The playgroup currently supports a number of children with special educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup employs nine staff, some of whom work part time. Eight of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Herga Opportunity pre school playgroup provides good quality nursery education where children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. In knowledge and understanding of the world progress is limited.

Teaching is generally good. Staff have a generally good understanding of the foundation stage and provide a well resourced environment to encourage children's learning. Planning has regard to the foundation stage but further development is needed to ensure all six areas of learning are given equal emphasis and covered regularly and frequently. Staff assess children's development but do not clearly link the next steps of learning with short term planning and focussed activities. Staff work closely with the children providing generally good interaction. However, at times there are missed learning opportunities. Staff are particularly skilled in providing exciting story telling sessions using props. Appropriate procedures are in place to support children with English as an additional language. Staff are highly skilled in working with children with special needs and provide good support for children to fully integrate into the group.

Leadership and management is generally good. The manager works directly with children and provides a good role model to staff. The staff team work well together. The manager has a good understanding of the foundation stage and has worked hard with the team to develop the curriculum. There is a commitment to staff development. There are currently ineffective systems in place for evaluating the teaching methods.

Partnership with parents is good. The setting is very welcoming and staff are approachable. Valuable information is gathered on children from their parents before they start. There are informal opportunities for parents to discuss their child's learning with their key worker. Parents receive regular newsletters to keep them well informed. Parents participate in various fund raising events.

### What is being done well?

- Staff have a positive attitude to the inclusion of children with special needs in all activities and good individual support is given.
- Staff have a generally good understanding of the foundation stage and provide a stimulating environment to encourage learning.
- The staff team works well in partnership with parents.
- In communication language and literacy staff are particularly skilled in providing exciting and interesting story telling sessions.

**What needs to be improved?**

- development of long and short term planning to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum is offered, particularly ensuring the programme for knowledge and understanding of the world is strengthened
- assessment methods to include information on the next steps of children's learning
- more opportunities for children to independently select creative resources and write for a variety of purposes
- evaluation methods to monitor the quality of education and teaching.

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

Staff have developed their knowledge of the foundation stage and continue to develop this with on going training. The system for planning has developed and is linked with the foundation stage but still requires further input to ensure equal emphasis is given to all six areas of learning. The programme for communication, language and literacy and mathematics have been developed but still requires further development.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are generally interested in the activities offered and are developing their concentration skills. They work alongside each other, sharing and beginning to take turns. They have made secure relationships with staff. They are developing a sense of right and wrong. There are generally good opportunities to develop their self help skills. Children are able to independently select some resources such as puzzles but too few opportunities are available for creative independence.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are becoming confident speakers and interact well with familiar adults. They listen attentively and with enjoyment to stories and singing times. They are interested in books and are beginning to understand print carries meaning. There are generally good opportunities to develop their imaginative thinking through role play. Although drawing materials are available daily there are too few opportunities for children to attempt to write for a variety of purposes.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are learning about shape, space and size as they fit puzzles together or build models with bricks. There are generally good opportunities for children to join in with number rhymes and songs. Children are beginning to count but there are missed opportunities during their play to develop mathematical language such as extending learning with money in the pretend shop. There are generally good opportunities for children to begin to solve practical problems such as with sand play.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children have generally good opportunities to learn about past and present events in their lives and explore their own and other cultures and beliefs. There are too few planned opportunities to be involved in exploratory and investigative play and in finding out about the natural world and environment. There are limited opportunities to use the computer and other technological resources effectively.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children move around with increasing control and are beginning to show an awareness for space. They have generally good opportunities to experiment with a range of physical activities both indoors and outdoors. They are developing good dexterity and hand eye coordination when using malleable materials and equipment such as play doh but there are too few opportunities to handle equipment such as scissors.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Generally good resources exist for children to use their imagination in art and design but these activities tend to be adult directed. There are too few opportunities for children to independently select these activities. Children respond and are able to sing simple songs from memory but there are lack of opportunities to develop their recognition of sounds from using musical instruments regularly.	
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	

### **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**

- develop long and short term planning to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum is offered
- develop assessment methods to clearly identify the next steps of learning for children which are linked with the stepping stones
- ensure effective systems are in place to monitor and evaluate the nursery education offered.

*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.*