



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 140422

DfES Number: 532632

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/03/2004
Inspector Name	Marcia Robinson

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Hilltop Playgroup
Setting Address	CUFOS Community Centre The Avenue London N10 2QE

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Hilltop Playgroup 1033456
------	--

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Hilltop Playgroup
Address	CUFOS Community Centre The Avenue London N10 2QE

## 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

Hilltop Playgroup opened in 1997. It is situated in the Muswell Hill area, within easy walking distance of local amenities. It operates from the ground floor of (CUFOS) community centre and has access to one large playroom, kitchen, toilet facilities for staff and children and a fully enclosed outside play area. The playgroup serves the local community.

There are currently 19 children on roll aged between 2 and 5 years, including 17 funded three year olds. The playgroup currently provides support to one child with special educational needs.

The playgroup opens four days a week and is closed on Thursdays. They operate during term time only between the hours of 09:30am to 12:00pm.

Three staff work directly with the children and two hold recognised childcare qualifications. The group operate a parent/carer rota each session and receive support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Childcare Development Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

Hilltop playgroup offers good quality care for children. Staff are deployed well, they are suitably qualified and experienced. Good use is made of the space to enable children to move around freely and play comfortably with toys. Staff create a warm and welcoming environment, children's work, information boards and colourful posters are on display. A wide range of toys and equipment are available and used purposefully, which enables the children to learn and develop in a stimulating environment. All the required records, policies and procedures are in place, well organised and easily accessible, although a few lacked all the necessary detail.

Most aspects of safety are good, with a few weaknesses. Staff have a good understanding of health and safety issues, clear procedures are in place, although there are weaknesses with fire safety and first aid requirements. Staff provide

snacks and drinks for children, which respects their individual dietary needs. They have a good understanding of how to implement equal opportunities in practice and develop children's understanding and respect for differences through talk and play. A positive inclusive environment is encouraged. Staff have a consistent approach to managing the children's behaviour which promotes their welfare and self esteem. They understand and implement the child protection and special needs policy well.

A good variety of age appropriate play materials and stimulating activities are available, which enhance children's play and learning in all areas. Staff interaction with children, is good and extends children's language and thinking. Well organised daily routines leads to children feeling happy and settled, thus allowing staff time to talk and play with the children.

Staff work well with parents, they are very much involved in the running of the group and information about the provision and their child's progress is regularly shared.

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

At the last inspection, the group agreed to notify Ofsted of the nominated person and to ensure that gas and electrical appliances conform to safety requirements. No evidence of gas and electrical checks were available for the inspection, however the group met the notification agreement, improving the organisation of their record keeping.

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

- Staff have created a warm and welcoming environment, whereby children's art work, information boards and colourful posters are on wall displays.
- Staff have a consistent approach towards managing children's behaviour, which promotes children's welfare and self esteem.
- A good variety of stimulating activities and a wide range of toys and equipment are available. Interaction with children is good and the children are happy and settled. Well organised daily routines allow staff time to listen, talk and play with the children.
- Staff work well with parents, they are very much involved in the running of the group through the committee and parental rota. Information about the provision and their child's progress is regularly shared.

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

- The provision of health and safety equipment to ensure appropriate fire and food safety measures are applied.
- The detail of written documentation of the daily attendance register for children and staff, inclusive of a visitors record book.
- The physical environment, to ensure that the premises are maintained to an appropriate temperature.

<b>Outcome of the inspection</b>
----------------------------------

Good
------

<b>CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION</b>
-----------------------------------

<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
--

<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>
---

<b>WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?</b>
------------------------------------

<b>The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection</b>
---

Std	Recommendation
2	Update the daily attendance register for staff and children to include arrival and departure times and ensure a record of visitors is kept.
4	Maintain the premises at an appropriate temperature.
6	Provide a fire blanket, which conforms to BS EN standards, that is accessible in the kitchen.
7	Provide a first aid box in the kitchen and ensure its contents comply with first aid regulations.

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

### **How effective is the nursery education?**

Hilltop Playgroup provides children with a stimulating environment, which helps children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Children make very good progress in, mathematical development, communication, language and literacy, creative and physical development. Generally good progress is made in knowledge and understanding of the world and personal social and emotional development. Children relate well to each other they share and take turns and their behaviour is very good. There are too few opportunities for children to develop their independence or to self select activities.

The quality of teaching is generally good, staff plan many interesting activities which children enjoy. They use a variety of teaching methods to promote children's curiosity and learning. They use open-ended questions and focus on individual children's skills to help develop knowledge. The systems for observing and assessing the children is inconsistent and does not always reflect the children's ability.

Currently there are no children attending who do not use English as their first language the setting has an effective system in place to provide good support to children with special educational needs.

Leadership and management is very good. The playgroup has a new staff team and the committee works to support staff and ensure consistency of good practice. Staff are keen to develop their childcare knowledge and time is provided for staff training.

Partnerships with parents are very good. Parents are well informed about the curriculum and their children's achievements and are provided with information to help them to support and extend their children's learning.

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

- The staff Provide a welcoming and stimulating environment in which children can socialise and participate in a wide range of activities which support their development.
- Children's behaviour is very good they listen well and contribute to discussions with confidence.
- The quality of interaction between the staff and children is very good and encourages children to participate well in activities.
- Partnership with parents is well established.

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

- The systems for observation and assessment to ensure that assessment is supported by suitable evidence and incorporated into the activity plans.
- Opportunities for children to develop their independence in self selection equipment and resources.
- Opportunities for children to use equipment which promotes their learning about information, communication and technology.

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

The group has made very good progress since the last inspection. At that inspection three key issues were identified in relation to information for parents, children's mathematical development and knowledge of letter sounds. All issues have been effectively addressed.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children's progress in this area is generally good. Children participate in activities with enthusiasm. They are able to express their feelings and show an understanding about how others might feel. The children relate well to each other and to adults. They are able to wait and to take turns. There are too few opportunities for children to self select equipment in order to develop their own ideas.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

The programme for communication language and literacy is very good. The children are confident communicators, through open ended questions staff encourage children to develop their thinking. Children enjoy listening to stories and use books independently. Children recognise their own name card and add it to a wall display on arrival. Children's interest in writing is fostered effectively through a well resourced writing area.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

The children's progress in mathematical development is very good. They can count reliably to ten and beyond for some older children. They use mathematical language to appropriately describe shape and size, they are also learning to add and subtract during every day activities such as at singing time. They are learning to recognise written numbers in practical activities and there are many visual examples displayed in the playgroup.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children are making generally good progress in knowledge and understanding of the world. They talk about themselves and remember past events. They learn about their own beliefs and also about the backgrounds of people living in the community. Children have opportunities to build with a range of construction equipment. There are very limited opportunities for children to learn about every day technology.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

Children's progress in the area of physical development is very good. Children climb, balance and move with confidence and agility. They enjoy participating in music and movement sessions during singing time. Children use the wide range small equipment, tools and malleable materials with confidence and control. They are learning how to care for themselves and each other to wash, dress and undress.

<b>CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Very Good
The children are making very good progress in this area of development. They are able to participate in a wide variety of activities and to use an extensive range of resources to explore colour, texture, shape, space and form in two and three dimensions. The children have good opportunities to listen to, and respond to music. They use instruments and learn about the range of sounds. Children have opportunities to express themselves through dance and in imaginative play.	
<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 the observation and assessment systems to ensure that assessment is supported by suitable evidence and incorporated into the activity plans.
- Create more opportunities for children to develop their independence in self selection of equipment and resources.
- Provide opportunities for children to use equipment which promotes their learning about information, communication and technology.

*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.*