

RESULTS OF PRE-PLAY, PARENT & BABY AND PARENT & TODDLER GROUPS QUESTIONNAIRE

33 questionnaires were returned. This represented 60% of those sent out.

1. Which group(s) do you attend?

21% Parent & Baby
36% Parent & Toddler
73% Pre-Play

2. Have you registered your child for HWU5s pre-school?

85% YES
9% NO
6% NOT SURE

- No. Due to living in Micheldever and unsure of preferred location.

3. Why did you choose HWU5s as an Early Years provider for your child?

- It is well run, the staff are lovely and you did a great job with my son.
- Location and reputation.
- My first child went there and I was very happy with the way he enjoyed it.
- Oldest son attended prior to starting school and thoroughly enjoyed his time here.
- Local resource.
- Reputation, location.
- Local community pre-school to us and good reputation.
- Location and likelihood of being with existing friends.
- Already have older child who is in this pre-school and she really enjoys it. Thought this was a good way to get my twins ready for pre-school.
- My daughter attended and loved it!
- Recommended by a trusted friend. Good ethos, friendly, approachable staff, staff good realtions with my child.
- Previous experience and very happy with it.
- I have two older children that have been to HWU5s so I know it is good!
- Didn't know about it. Child only 3 months old.
- Older child came here.
- Location.
- Because I enjoy Baby & Toddler group and like staff.
- Lots of things to do – children will probably all go to the same school so will know each other.
- Because its local!
- It is nice for child to have continuous contact with the same members of staff throughout their first years from birth until they start 'real' school.
- The staff and facilities, also it's within walking distance of our home.
- Nearest centre to us, good reputation.
- New house, recommended.
- Already have son in main group and really happy.
- Come to baby group and followed through to pre-play.
- Was very impressed with Lisa Cato in particular when attended toddler group and happy my children's development will be well managed.
- Because of the friendly staff and relaxed atmosphere.
- Other siblings have attended and were pleased with service.
- Local, older sibling attends.

4. ***Is your child registered at any other Early Years provider?***

70% NO
30% YES

These were broken down as follows:

Early Years	3 of 10
Dandelions	6 of 10
Monkey House Nursery	1 of 10

5. ***If in the future, the group amalgamated all its pre-school groups – the consequences mainly being that there would be a reduction in the number of children we would be able to offer places to and all the really young children would be in the same room as the other children – would you agree with this?***

100% NO

- Feel younger and older children should remain separate in order to provide appropriate tasks, games, play, etc.
- My daughter is very shy and would be scared going into a big group straight away. The Under 3s is a great idea so please keep it going!
- Would worry the older children may be careless! Would need lots of toys to challenge all age ranges.
- I think the groups would work better as they are in their age groups.
- I feel the way the groups are run at present works very well. The younger children can play with toys, paint, look at books, etc. easily. Not sure this would be as easy if in room along with the older children. Also, it seems a shame not to be able to offer places to as many children when the pre-school is obviously such a popular one within the community.
- Need to differentiate between 0-3 year age group needs – hugely different developmental steps and stages – unless much higher staff ratio.
- I think the way you currently offer different sessions for the young ones is very beneficial and eases them into the main school slowly. It would be a great shame if this changed.
- Safety issues concerning the children. Would be difficult to meet all of the needs of the varying age groups in the one room, and as a community it wouldn't meet the needs of parents requiring places.
- Too few spaces already to meet local demand and the needs of the children would be different.
- I think the younger children benefit more being eased into the big group as it could be too much for them straight away.
- My son has always been very shy and myself and our small pre-play group have worked hard at bringing him out of his shyness and in a 'big' group it would not have worked as well.
- I really appreciate the chance for my child to have a gradual introduction to pre-school. Being in a smaller room with fewer children of a similar age where expectations are set specifically to that age group seems to be a really good idea and I think my child certainly will settle in much better this way. Not many other of my friends have had this opportunity.
- The needs of the different age groups vary so much.
- I think the separate groups is much better for the younger children – especially when they first start.
- Too much for little children.
- Young ones need space to be able to explore without being trampled on by older children. Groups are split well at the moment.
- Younger children need to develop and learn at 'their' pace.
- Already seems to be long waiting list and I don't like idea of very young children being in room with 4/5 year olds.
- Because I think younger children need time/space to get confident and learn things that other children already know.
- Not safe for younger children.
- Would be better to keep the group separate and age appropriate.
- I don't feel very tiny children would benefit from being in with the more boisterous children (older ones who are more confident) until they are ready. Especially as the younger ones prefer to play along/alongside and not necessarily with others. My daughter panics when she thinks someone is following/chasing her at present.
- As the groups are currently organised it allows the toys and activities to be tailored to the developmental stage of the children. Furthermore it provides a non-threatening/overwhelming atmosphere for the younger ones to enjoy playing. Also from the older ones point of view it enables them to run and play and learn without the pressure of always being told to be careful round the very little ones.
- Too dangerous to mix small and big children together.

- There needs to be different age groups, the toddlers need more room to move around and run than the babies, plus the babies have more chance of getting squashed!
- The differences between the ages would make the sessions stressful for mums with babies.
- I have two children – 2 and the other 4 months – However, I am warned when my youngest starts to crawl as he may get trampled on.
- I feel for safety and development needs need to be considered. Having children together of the same age is less daunting for the little ones.
- I would be very concerned as to how such a wide age range of children would be able to be catered for in the same session. In particular the vast differences in social and playing skills between the age groups and whether all children would suffer as a consequence.
- Think it is so important to have separate age groups, as their specific needs are very different dependent on age.
- I feel same age children need to be together.

6. *If offered a place at HWU5s pre-school, when would your child start pre-school?*

February 2009	8
September 2009	7
November 2009	5
February 2010	6
September 2010	3
November 2010	2
February 2011	1
September 2011	3
November 2011	0

7. *Would you, if available in the future, be interested in or take up an option of earlier starts and/or later finishes?*

8:00am start	4
8:30am start	5
3:30pm finish	7
4:00pm finish	6
Other	0.

8. *Any other comments?*

- Physical toys/activities each week. Floor puzzles rather than wooden slot puzzles.
- The early start would be better so I could get school child to school on time as well as pre-school child being on time.
- Would be great to be able to have a coffee/tea when attending the Friday pre-play group (would be happy to pay for it). Seem to remember this did happen at one of the other slots I attended (Monday?). Come to the group straight from doing school run, so gasping! A vending machine could even be installed in centre??
- Very frustrating having moved here 08/08, a newcomer and there are waiting lists for most local pre-schools.
- I have been very impressed with the pre-play and am very keen for son to start the pre-school Feb 2010. I have heard great things about the pre-school through current and ex-pupils as well as members of staff.
- Pleased with groups in general but in an ideal world there would be a larger room to use for the parent and toddler group as there is clearly a huge need for it. Feel that it is a bit too busy!
- Drinks for mums at Friday sessions please.
- HWU5s have done brilliantly with my son as he is shy and didn't like to go to many people – now he is quite happy to do things with other parents and teachers – my daughter who attended absolutely loved it here. Could we possibly have coffee/tea for parents at pre-play? Hooks for coats/bags would be handy!
- We are very happy with the provision for our child. Thank you.
- A great pre-school with happy and friendly staff.
- Lovely group. Great staff.
- I love the warm, welcoming approach of the staff to both the parents and the children. I also prefer when the 'table' activity for Monday is different to that offered on Friday for variety for my daughter.
- A friendly caring atmosphere is created as the groups are presently structured however if they were amalgamated the noise level alone of everyone in one room would be detrimental to this.

- Overall I feel HWU5s offers a good stimulating environment. I feel I have been well informed and the staff have all been excellent. I will be sending both my children here until they go to school.
- I feel that the current groups available work particularly well in catering for all age groups separately. My child has definitely benefitted from progressing through the groups in this way. This is something not offered by other pre-schools and would be a real shame if this was lost here!
- Friday morning pre-play group. All mums in our group feel that we would really benefit from having a hot drink offered to us!!! Would even be willing to provide and make the drinks ourselves. Please consider this. Thank you. We will drink at the hatch if needed!!
- It would be nice if hot refreshments were available for parents in the Friday pre-play groups, also smaller group size.