

# Christ Church Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311279
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Hilary Mary Mckenning
<b>Setting Address</b>	Christ Church, Church Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD5 9DL
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<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Christ Church Playgroup
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<b>Type of care</b>	Sessional care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Christ Church Playgroup opened in 1991 and is a voluntary organisation. They operate from the church premises in the village of Moldgreen, near Huddersfield, and serve the needs of the local multi-ethnic community. The group has access to a foyer, playroom, toilet, kitchen and storage facilities.

The group may care for 20 children from two to five years and they are currently caring for 25 children, of whom three children are in receipt of nursery education funding. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and who speak English as an additional language.

There are four part time staff working with the children, the majority of whom hold an early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are active and enjoy physical activities, which contributes to their general good health. They learn hand-eye coordination as they move confidently and safely indoors, negotiating space and obstacles. Staff are aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework having attended a recent training session.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment. They receive support and guidance from staff in understanding the importance of following hygiene procedures, as they discuss the importance of washing their hands. Children's health is not sufficiently promoted due to some of the procedures in place. For example, they all share the same water to wash their hands and the same towel to dry their hands. All staff have current first aid certificates and accident records are appropriately maintained.

Children enjoy well-balanced snacks. They choose from a variety of fruit at snack time, which encourages children to have an awareness of a healthy lifestyle. Staff take account of parents' wishes so that children's individual health and dietary requirements are met effectively, for example, these requirements are recorded and displayed in the kitchen to ensure children's needs are met.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is inadequate.

Children benefit from playing in a secure environment. This allows them to move around freely and safely around the area. The setting is mainly safe with some good safety measures, such as the outer door is locked and a buzzer is used to gain entry. There are appropriate procedures in place to ensure children depart with appropriate adults. Visitors are monitored when on the premises and children cannot leave the premises unsupervised.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff have a reasonable understanding of their role and responsibilities concerning child protection matters. However, there is no record that staff have completed the necessary checks to ensure their suitability and this compromises children's safety.

Children are carefully supervised and there is an appropriate procedure to follow in the event of a child being lost or not collected. Risk assessments are conducted on a regular basis and adequate security arrangements are in place. The children practise fire drills on a regular basis and adequate recording of practises are up to date. This helps children to become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

A sufficient range of age-appropriate toys, furniture and resources is presented on the floor and table tops to encourage children to independently access them.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and secure as staff take time to get to know them and their families, fostering warm, trusting relationships. Children enjoy their time in the playgroup and arrive eager to

participate. They show enthusiasm and anticipation for the day's events. Children are becoming independent as they choose between a range of toys and activities made available to them. They enjoy exploring a range of activities that contribute to their creativity, such as painting and model making. Younger children enjoy a variety of experiences. For example, they play with the train track alongside older children. Children easily engage in conversation with their peers and adults as their language skills are developing well.

### Nursery education

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children enjoy coming to the playgroup and are supported by the staff. This ensures children make satisfactory progress in all areas of learning. Staff have knowledge of the early learning goals and they use this to plan activities to meet the needs of most children. The management team works alongside staff in order to offer support.

Children are very good communicators and use language confidently for a variety of purposes. They readily initiate conversations and make their needs known as they ask for drinks. Children access books and are aware print carries meaning. Although, there are missed opportunities for children to use writing for a purpose such as when writing and recognising their names on pictures and their work.

Children gain confidence in using numbers and they are developing good counting skills. Children readily engage in simple mathematical problems as they join in songs and action rhymes.

Knowledge and understanding of the world is developing as children visit local places of interest. They are introduced to different celebrations and festivals as part of planned topics and themes. Children are sensitive to the needs of others and their behaviour is generally good.

Staff are aware of children's interests and needs as priority is given to getting to know children and their families. Staff obtain information by talking to parents and observing children as they play. They regularly assess children's progress through the stepping stones, providing information for parents. This information is used to plan activities, however, there are few opportunities for more able children to practise their fine motor skills. Overall children make satisfactory progress in all areas of learning.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging to the playgroup as they become familiar with routines and expectations. They have close affectionate relationships with the staff and each other. Behaviour is generally good and children are aware of their boundaries, for example, they know they must inform staff if they need to visit the toilet. They help to tidy away activities and are beginning to take responsibility for their own behaviour as they are encouraged to share and take turns. Praise is given freely to children, ensuring that they develop confidence and self esteem.

Staff treat all children equally and are committed to inclusion. They are calm, polite and respectful, and children follow their example. Children encounter experiences to learn about themselves, each other and the world about them, for example, they have opportunities to sample other cultures food at snack time and visit places of interest within the local community.

There is a written equal opportunities policy in place which is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Children access a variety of resources that reflect diversity. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. The playgroup values and respects parents and a partnership is developing with them so that children's individual needs are understood. Parents have their own noticeboard where they can access information, for example, the fire drill and staff details. Throughout the year the playgroup ensures parents are aware of current activities by providing them with information about the current topic. Parents have a prospectus and a welcome pack of the setting.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Leadership and management is satisfactory. The management team works alongside staff in order to offer support. Staff work together as a team and are aware of their roles and responsibilities. There is an appraisal system in place to identify staff training needs and ensure the policies and procedures are consistently applied. Organisation of the planning is a team effort and a key worker system is in place for the recording of observations.

Children are cared for in an environment where they can move around and explore freely. Familiar staff are always on hand to offer support and reassurance. This contributes to children feeling secure and content in the pre-school. Most policies and procedures are in place to support children's welfare and are shared with parents. There is a system in place to support staff through appraisal and training. The management team do not have the relevant up to date information regarding the National Standards and therefore are not familiar with the current legislation and guidance. For example, there is no recorded evidence to ensure that all staff are suitably qualified and vetted to care for children. This is a breach in regulation that may potentially put children at risk. Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to address several issues relating to processes and documentation. The provider has reviewed the documentation and the registers now reflect the times children attend the playgroup. Information is now available to parents regarding complaints and contains contact details of the regulator.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

### WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

#### The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking and recording that staff are suitable to work with children and that they are available for inspection.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

#### The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- provide more opportunities for more able children to practise writing for a purpose for example writing their name on their own pictures
- provide more opportunities for children to develop their creativity and practise fine motor skills.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)