

# Kingswinford Methodist Church Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	253911
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Rebecca Hadley
<b>Setting Address</b>	Stream Road, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9NP
<b>Telephone number</b>	01384 277464 or 358397
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<b>Registered person</b>	Kingswinford Methodist Church Playgroup
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<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

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Kingswinford Methodist Playgroup opened in 1980. It operates from three rooms in the Methodist Church in Kingswinford. The playgroup supports the local community.

The setting is registered to care for 36 children from two to five years. There are currently 36 children on roll. The group operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings term time only from 09.15 - 11.45. Children attend for all three sessions. The playgroup is not in receipt of funding for three and four year olds. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

There are six employed members of staff who work with the children. Four have recognised early years qualifications and two are working towards obtaining a qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted and the setting takes steps to ensure that children are well protected from the risk of infection. Positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection when children become ill and parents are reminded not to take children to the setting if they are contagious. Children are developing a good understanding of health and hygiene practices. They have made posters which are displayed in the toilets to remind them to wash their hands and they take part in a keeping healthy week. Children's individual health care needs are extremely well met. Staff attend training to enable them to care for children with specific medical conditions and excellent procedures are implemented to ensure that all children can safely attend the setting.

Children are well nourished and their individual dietary requirements very well met. They are offered nutritious snacks which consist of a variety of fresh fruit such as grapes, apples, bananas, pears and strawberries. Children are well hydrated because milk and fresh drinking water is readily accessible at all times. Snack and mealtimes are relaxed, social occasions, when children sit together around the table to enjoy their food and each other's company.

Children enjoy very good opportunities to experience physical activities and develop their skills. They enjoy activities such as bikes, scooters, tunnels, hoops, climbing equipment and obstacle courses which enables them to develop their confidence on a range of equipment that provides challenge.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in premises that are very well presented and maintained in good condition. The rooms are set out before children arrive and children have space to play freely, to be active or quiet according to their individual needs. Every child is welcomed individually as they arrive which creates a friendly atmosphere and develops children's self-worth. Children have access to a wide range of equipment that is suitable, safe and well maintained. They enjoy using a range of toys and resources which successfully promote all stages of development.

Children are kept safe due to staff's vigilance and extremely in-depth risk assessments which cover all areas and activities. The premises are secure and the procedures for the arrival and collection of children are very well managed to ensure children's safety. Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe in a variety of different situations. For example, they know not to bump into each other when riding bikes, to wait until the person in front of them has gone down the slide before they have their turn and they are learning how to cross the road safely when on outings.

The manager and some staff demonstrate a good understanding of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. However, this information is not disseminated to all staff and some are unsure of the action that should take in the event of a concern about a child in their care. Therefore children's safety and welfare is potentially compromised in this area.

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

The provision is good.

Children are developing confidence and appear happy and comfortable in their environment. Children who are unsure are sensitively comforted by staff and given time to watch and get used to activities before they are encouraged to participate. For example, during the singing session. They benefit from the good knowledge of child development held by the staff and "I can do" observations and assessments ensure that children are making good progress in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Positive interactions can be seen between children and adults and children actively seek out staff to join in their games or for a comforting hug.

Children are beginning to develop independence and are interested and involved as they choose from a wide range of age-appropriate activities such as role play, puzzles, planting seeds, play dough, construction carving pumpkins and a variety of painting and craft activities. They enjoy trips out to the farm and park and regularly visit the library for story time. Children have first hand experiences to develop curiosity as learners because staff encourage them to take part in and explore new activities such as mixing shaving foam and paint to create different colours. They join in excitedly with singing time and shout "again" for songs that they enjoy such as Head, Shoulders Knees and Toes. Children are developing self esteem by becoming the helper of the day and because staff offer encouragement and praise at all times.

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

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and are highly valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are identified and met exceptionally well. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language are extremely well supported by knowledgeable staff who ensure that excellent progress is being made towards being inclusive. Strategies such as additional staff training and working closely with parents and outside agencies are in place to help staff support children with individual specific needs.

Children's behaviour is exemplary in proportion to their level of understanding and maturity. This is because staff create an environment that encourages children to respect boundaries and begin to control their own behaviour. Children understand clear and consistent guidelines and expectations of behaviour such as sharing toys and helping to look after new children. They play harmoniously together and are learning to share and to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Staff are excellent role models and promote children's confidence and self esteem through systems such as a daily helper and positive praise and encouragement.

There are very good procedures in place to help parents understand the setting's aims and practices. This promotes the learning and welfare of the children. Parents are welcomed into the setting and relationships with staff are friendly. They are encouraged to attend the group as a parent helper on a regular basis and become involved with their child's learning through topics where they send in objects from home. For example, for the colour table. Parents are provided with information about the setting through a prospectus and a notice board. Information is passed to them verbally on a daily basis and parents happily come into the setting and chat to staff about their children. Parents' comments are positive and include staffs friendly approach, the activities provided for children and the excellent care that their children receive.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The manager and committee demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of the need to inform Ofsted of any significant changes. The Playgroup offers a warm and welcoming experience where children are happy and settled. Children's care is further enhanced by excellent organisation and resources to support and extend their development and learning. Staff are well qualified and effectively deployed to ensure that children receive a high level of care and attention and to enable them to develop independence.

Comprehensive, detailed documentation is in place and regularly reviewed to ensure that all requirements are met. It is confidentially maintained whilst still being easily accessible in an emergency. There is an effective and detailed operational plan in place. It includes an extensive range of policies and procedures and additional information such as room plans and the group profile to ensure the smooth running of the setting. Effective steps are taken to plan ahead, evaluate and improve the service offered through the use of self evaluation and action plans. Recruitment and vetting procedures are robust and ensure that staff are of high quality and well qualified. Staff regularly attend training to further their knowledge and experience. This enables them to support children's development, learning and specific individual needs.

Management and staff are enthusiastic, dedicated and work very well together. They are totally committed to providing a high level of care for the children and are constantly looking at and implementing ways to move the setting forward. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the setting was asked to; ensure children have access to drinking water at all times and ensure there is a key worker system in place. Both of these have now been successfully implemented within the setting.

## **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

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

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

#### The quality and standards of the care

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

- ensure that all staff are aware of Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures.

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)