

# United Reformed Church Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	115379
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Lynne Hodge
<b>Setting Address</b>	United Reformed Church Hall, Kelvin Road, Welling, Kent, DA16 2EH
<b>Telephone number</b>	U/A
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	The Committee of United Reformed 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?

The United Reformed Church Playgroup has been in operation since March 1968 and under the present management since 1981. It operates from the Church Hall in Kelvin Road Welling, close to the local high street shops and serves families from the local community and surrounding area. The playgroup also has the use of a smaller side room for stories, a kitchen area and toilet facilities. There is also a small paved area which is used for outdoor activities in fine weather. The playgroup is set up and cleared away at each session as the hall is used by a number of other groups within the local community.

The group is open from 09:15 until 12 noon Monday to Friday during school term times. It is registered to take a maximum of 24 children aged two years to under five years, of whom no more than four maybe under three years. There are currently 20 children on roll. Five members of staff work directly with the children on a rota basis. Three members of staff hold a basic childcare qualification and one has recently completed an NVQ Level 3 in Pre School Practice.

The playgroup is not currently registered for children to receive funding for nursery education. There are no children currently attending the playgroup who have identified learning difficulties and/or disabilities. At the present time there are two children on roll who have English as an additional language.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The play group has a comprehensive health and hygiene policy in place to ensure that all staff are familiar with procedures for promoting children's health. Children are cared for in a clean environment which is well maintained by a daily cleaner, employed by the church. Children are learning good personal hygiene by being encouraged to wash their hands with anti bacterial soap after going to the toilet and before snack time. To help prevent the spread of infection children who are unwell are excluded from attending the group. Medication and accident records are well maintained. Children can be given appropriate care in the event of accidents as three members of staff hold a current first aid qualification and a fully stocked first aid box is kept very accessible. However, the group does not currently have written permission from parents allowing staff to seek advice and treatment in the event of an emergency.

Children's benefit from healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, dried fruit and bread sticks with water or very weak juice to drink. Staff talk to children about the importance of healthy eating and children take part in fun activities and games to make them aware of healthy foods and snacks. Children also take part in regular activities which help to promote their all round physical development.

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

The provision is good.

Children and parents are greeted warmly by staff. Daily safety checks, together with fuller risk assessments completed during the year, ensure that children can play in safe, secure surrounding. During the session the church hall is divided into two sections, one area contains scooters or the climbing frame for physical play and the other area is set out with a range of different activities which children can choose from. Furniture, equipment and play resources are well maintained and meet the needs of the children. The group has recently purchased new home corner equipment and other play resources. There are good procedures in place for the safe arrival and collection of children. For example, the front door, which is kept locked through out the session, is manned by a member of staff while parents drop off and collect children from inside the hall. This ensures that children can not leave the premises unsupervised. Children take part in regular fire drills which are appropriately recorded. Fire safety equipment in the hall and kitchen is regularly checked and maintained.

Children are fairly well protected as all members of staff hold an up-to-date Criminal Record Disclosure and the group has a comprehensive child protection policy in place which is in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The policy includes procedures to take should an allegation be made against a member of staff. Although all staff have attended child protection training under the old Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) guidelines, at the current only one member of staff has attended Local Safeguarding Children Board training.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident. They settle well and enjoy their time spent at the playgroup because they take part in a good combination of adult led and child initiated activities. Although the group does not currently receive funding for nursery education, staff have begun using

the Foundation Stage curriculum to plan a wide range of activities that cover the six areas of learning, helping to promote children's enjoyment and development. Children can choose what they want to play with from a variety of resources and activities such as role play, puzzles, the computer, a book area, although a little under resourced, a writing table, small world activities, play dough, educational games and physical activities. Children enjoy using their imaginations in the role play area and dressing up. They enthusiastically join in singing familiar songs using props, however, opportunities to extend their creativity through messy activities are rather limited. Children are well supported in their play and relate well to adults and their peers. Staff interact well with children as they sit at activities and talk to them to extend their language and thinking. For example, whilst modelling with the play dough several children enthusiastically talk to the member of staff about their favourite foods. During a game called 'Greedy Gorilla' a group of children laugh and giggle, taking turns to make the gorilla burp as they feed him picture cards of unhealthy foods and talk about which foods are healthy. Children enjoy using the computer for counting, number recognition, matching and sequencing. They are encouraged to recognise their names on flash cards at snack time and have opportunities to practise their early writing skills.

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

The provision is good.

The play group is open to every family in the community regardless of ethnic background, religion, language, gender or disability. A welcome poster in different languages is displayed by the front door and the group's equal opportunity policy is shared with parents. Staff are provided with good information about children as parents are asked to complete an 'All About Me' form together with a child record form prior to their child starting at the group. This ensures that staff have lots of information about each child's individual needs. There are currently two children attending the group with English as a second language. Children are learning about diversity and disability through positive image play resources such as dolls, puzzles, small world figures, books and themes celebrating different festivals. All parents are provided with a letter explaining about the Borough's procedures for helping children with special educational needs. The playgroup works with the Area Special Educational Needs Coordinator and all staff attend meetings to ensure that they can support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Extra support is provided if necessary.

Staff are kind and caring and act as good role models. They manage children's behaviour by focusing on positive reinforcement and giving lots of praise and encouragement to foster their self esteem. As a result children are well behaved and are confident in their surroundings. Children enjoy helping to clear away activities, are encouraged to take turns, share and say please and thank you.

Good relationships with parents contribute to children's care and well being. Staff work in partnership with parents to meet children's needs. New parents are provided with a detailed welcome leaflet about the group which includes several policy statements. Staff are available to talk to parents on a daily basis and information about the playgroup and events is clearly displayed on the parent notice board. Parent questionnaires recently given out and comments from several parents collecting their children provided very positive feedback about the group.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. A committed and enthusiastic staff team work well together to provide children with consistency and continuity of care in a safe and enjoyable environment. One member of staff has recently completed her NVQ Level 3 in Pre School Practice and is responsible for planning and organising the curriculum. All staff regularly attend training courses to ensure their child care knowledge and practice is kept up-to-date. Children benefit from high levels of support and play in well organised play space. The playgroup has a rigorous recruitment policy in place to ensure that all adults employed to work with children are suitable to do. Students and unvetted adults are never left alone with children. Most legally required documentation is in place for the safe and effective management of the provision. This includes a record of children's attendance, incidents, accidents and medication, although the group does not have written consent from parents allowing them to seek medical treatment in the event of an emergency. The group are in the process of developing a system for recording observations of children's progress and development.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the group was asked to develop and implement an action plan setting out how staff training and qualifications requirements will be met and how supervisors will achieve a Level 3 qualification; to reorganise the room and ensure that staff are deployed effectively in order to ensure that children's play and learning opportunities are met; to develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways of managing children's behaviour; to develop staff's knowledge of child protection in line with ACPC guidelines; to devise a system for planning and implementing a suitable range of appropriate age and stage activities for children and to ensure that accidents are recorded promptly in the accident book.

Since the inspection one of the playgroup supervisors has recently completed a Cache Level 3 Diploma in Pre School Practice and is hoping to go on to complete her Level 4 after Christmas. The hall is well organised and staff are deployed effectively to ensure that children's play and learning needs are met. All staff have attended training on behaviour management and child protection, although this was under the Area Child Protection Committee procedures. Although the group is not currently receiving funding for nursery education, staff have begun to devise a system for planning activities which cover the six areas of learning of the Foundation Stage Curriculum. As a result, the range of activities and the outcomes for children are much improved. The accident record book is completed appropriately and signed by parents.

## **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):

- provide children with a wider range of activities to promote their creativity and increase the range of books on offer to children in the book corner
- ensure that all staff are familiar with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- obtain written permission from parents allowing staff to seek emergency advice and treatment

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)