

Holy Cross Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118177
Inspection date	06 December 2007
Inspector	Christine Bonnett
Setting Address	Holy Cross Church, Ferrymead Gardens, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9MF
Telephone number	020 8578 2306
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Registered person	The Trustee's of Holy Cross Under 5s Group
Type of inspection	Integrated
Type of care	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.

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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children in receipt of nursery education. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide nursery education.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Holy Cross Playgroup is managed by a voluntary management committee and board of trustees. It is a registered charity. The playgroup opened in 1989 and operates from a hall within Holy Cross Church Greenford, in the London borough of Ealing. A maximum of 26 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. It is open each weekday from 09:00 to 11:30 during term time. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 35 children aged from two years to under five years on roll. There are no children currently on roll receiving funding for nursery education. Children come from the local community. The playgroup currently supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs five staff, of whom two, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. A further two staff members are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health and welfare is compromised because although details are recorded of any accidents that occur, the record sheet is given to the parent/carer of the child. A copy is not retained on the premises. Consequently, an accurate record of all accidents is not available for inspection. This is a breach of regulations.

Staff qualified in first aid are on the premises at all times, and procedures are in place to administer medication, if necessary. Children play comfortably in a hall that is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. Children are also learning good self-care skills as they wash their hands at appropriate times during the session, and are beginning to understand why this is important to their health. Physical outdoor exercise is promoted even though outside play space is very limited. Children go out each day for a walk around the neighbourhood.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks that take account of their individual dietary needs. Fresh fruit and vegetables are provided, such as grapes, cucumber and tomatoes. A social time is created as children sit together around tables and talk to their peers and staff.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a secure environment into which no uninvited visitors can gain access. The fire evacuation plan is displayed and practised regularly to ensure children and staff leave the premises quickly and safely in the event of an emergency. However, fire safety could be jeopardised as inflammable items, such as art work and clothing are left to dry on top of radiators.

Children have access to a suitable range of resources to enable them to make progress in all areas of development. Because all furniture and equipment has to be packed away at the end of each session, many items are stored where children cannot independently access them. However, a satisfactory variety is set-out each day. The hall is made welcoming for children as some art work and posters are displayed on the walls, and activities are arranged appealingly for them.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as staff are aware of the signs and symptoms that could indicate a child was being abused. They also understand the importance of reporting any child protection concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their session at the group. They arrive happily and quickly settle down to an activity of their choice. They are interested and motivated to learn. Activities are planned to provide fun as well as learning opportunities for children, such as making Christmas bells and shaking on glitter. Cooking is also a much enjoyed activity. Staff encourage children to observe the changes to the flour when water is added to make biscuits, and to feel the different textures. Staff are skilled at asking open-ended questions to make children think and to develop their vocabulary, for example, 'what does it feel like?' Although space is limited, children have the

opportunity for physical play as they test their skills and daring on the balancing beams, and dance around shaking their 'jingle-bells'.

Staff treat the children with kindness and warmth. Unsettled or new children are well supported and offered alternatives to the routine if they feel unable to join in. Lots of appropriate praise is given to enable the children to develop confidence and good self-esteem.

Nursery Education

Although there are no funded children currently on roll, evidence suggests that the quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Staff have a sound knowledge of the Foundation Stage, and are clear about the learning intentions for each supervised activity. The weekly planning covers the six areas of learning. Children are observed to identify their achievements, and the information gained is evaluated and used to plan their next individual step in the learning process. However, the education programme is limited, and does not offer a sufficiently wide range of experiences to ensure all aspects of each area of learning are covered. For example, no computer or programmable toys are available to foster children's interest in information technology. Simple mathematics is well-used, but calculation and problem solving are not promoted and there are few opportunities for children to make marks and begin to develop pre-writing skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered. Their behaviour is good as they are busily engaged in meaningful activities. Any behavioural difficulties that may arise are managed using positive and age appropriate methods. Children are spoken to respectfully by staff who know their individual needs well. Children are learning about the world in which they live as they play with a range of resources which promote diversity. They also participate in world faith festivals, such as Diwali and Christmas. Parents are invited to share their knowledge of particular festivals with the group so that both children and staff can enhance their understanding of the world around them.

Children who have English as an additional language are well supported by the group, as several staff members speak a range of community languages. Currently there are no children on roll with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, the group has experience in the area of work, and designated staff liaise with all relevant people involved with the care and development of the child to ensure he or she is fully included in the life of the group.

Children benefit from the effective working relationship the staff have with parents. They are able to spend time each day settling their child, and can approach staff with concerns at any time. A variety of relevant information is also displayed for parents to consult. The partnership with parents and carers of children who receive nursery education is satisfactory. They can request to see their child's development file and discuss their progress with the key-worker. In addition, the parent rota for helping in the group is generally well supported. Consequently, parents have an opportunity of seeing how their child spends the session, and can support their learning at home using a consistent approach.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Overall, the setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Accurate details in relation to children's attendance are not maintained. Although parents sign their child into the group each morning, no system is in place to record the actual time a child is collected if it is before the end of the session. This is a breach of regulations, and puts children's welfare at significant risk. With the exception of the detailed attendance register and an accident record, all other required documentation is in place to support the smooth running of the group.

Children benefit from having sufficient space to play in safety and comfort. Each session is well planned to provide a positive experience for them. Rigorous recruitment procedures are in place to ensure that all staff appointed are suitable to work with children. Staff deployment around the hall is good, and ensures that children are adequately supervised at all times.

The leadership and management of the setting in relation to nursery education are satisfactory. The manager shares her skills and knowledge with the staff, and has introduced effective planning and observation systems. However, the planning is limited and does not comprehensively promote each area of learning.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the playgroup was required to improve the welfare of children by obtaining a copy of the local child protection procedures. They were also required to amend the group's child protection policy by including the procedure to follow in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff. Both requirements have now been met for staff to refer to and follow, if necessary to safeguard the welfare of children.

The group was also required to ensure the contact details for Ofsted are included in the complaints procedure. Full details are now included to enable parents to contact the regulator should they have concerns about the group.

A further requirement was made at the last inspection to promote the health of children by obtaining written permission from parents at the start of an arrangement to seek medical treatment for their child, should the need arise. This recommendation has not been addressed by the group and consequently children's well-being could be compromised in the event of an emergency.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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.

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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 a record is maintained on the premises, signed by parents, of any accidents
- ensure an accurate record is maintained of the arrival and departure time of each child.

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):

- extend the programme for nursery education in all six areas of learning to ensure all aspects are covered sufficiently.

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