

# Windmill Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	123139
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Pauline King

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<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 Windmill Playgroup opened in 1983. It operates from one room in a purpose-built building within Wandsworth Common Park in the London borough of Wandsworth. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

The playgroup is registered for 24 children aged two years to five years old, term time only from 09:00 to 12:15. There are currently 32 children on roll. Children come from the local and surrounding areas. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children who are learning English as an additional language.

The playgroup employs four staff, all the staff, including the provider hold appropriate early year's qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health within the setting is supported by staff that are familiar with the playgroup's health and hygiene procedures. For instance, they regularly sterilise their hands and use gloves when changing nappies to help prevent the spread of infection. Older children are encouraged to do things independently, such as washing their hands and learn that these practices are important to stop germs spreading. However, staff do not allow younger children to be as independent. A staff member is always in attendance that holds a current first aid certificate. This means they can give appropriate care if there is an accident.

Children have drinks and fresh fruit or biscuits mid morning. They are beginning to understand the value of good nutrition, because healthy options are available. However, drinking water is not freely available during the session.

Children enjoy taking part in physical activities both outdoors and indoors, such as music and movement indoors when the weather is too bad to go out. They learn new skills when staff show them how to do different actions to music.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a well organised environment. Children use a wide range of good quality toys and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children are provided with suitable and stimulating opportunities at all times. Toys and equipment are easily accessible to children offering them freedom of choice.

There are clear systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. There are regular risk assessments indoors and outdoors, that enable staff to identify and address any potential hazards. Fire drills help children become familiar with the procedures so they learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely.

Staff have a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. They know what action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care. This ensures staff quickly recognise when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interests.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy in the playgroup. They settle quickly and take part in activities enthusiastically. They have strong relationships with staff, who respond to them warmly and recognise their achievements. Children benefit from the consistent routines within the playgroup which helps them feel secure because they know what will happen next.

Children choose from a good variety of activities that support their learning. They spend time playing freely with resources, such as books, play people, dressing up, as well as joining in planned art and craft sessions. Children listen to stories with interest and show pleasure when looking at books on their own. Children enjoy when staff join in with their play, for instance music and movement and in the home corner. Children demonstrate what they have learned

when confidently, repeating doing the same puzzle over and over again. They learn new skills because staff have a good understanding and knowledge of their needs and abilities.

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

The provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed into the playgroup, and less confident children are given individual attention to help them settle in and feel more at home. Children play with a good range of resources that represent the wider community, which helps them develop positive attitudes to others.

Children are very well behaved. They know what is expected of them because staff explain the rules consistently and follow familiar daily routines. Children are encouraged to help tidy up and show care for their environment.

Children benefit from good relationships between their parents and playgroup staff. Parents feel welcomed and are able to talk to staff about any issues as they arise on a daily basis. This ensures staff are aware of children's needs on a day-to-day basis and that parents are kept up-to-date with any important information.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and are at ease in the well organised setting. Staff are experienced and committed to development and training. Children receive good individual attention and support due to current high ratios.

Children have ample space to take part in a variety of different activities because staff spend time organising and setting up the hall before each session. For example, book area, art and craft activities, messy play, table activities and home corner. Staff work well as a team and clear communication and guidance allow them to provide a stimulating well-balanced programme. Children are kept busy and involved throughout the session due to the effective daily routine.

The playgroup's clear up-to-date policies and procedures work in practice, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being.

The setting meets the needs of the range of the children of whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

All recommendations from the last inspection have been addressed. The new complaints policy available to parents includes Ofsted's contact number. Parents sign all accident records at the end of the session. Low level bushes have been trimmed back.

### **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 drinking water is freely available to children during the morning
- encourage all children to be independent when using toilet and washing their hands

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)