

Whitton Playdays Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	509703
Inspection date	28 January 2008
Inspector	Hazel Farrant
Setting Address	Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Whitton, Middlesex, TW2 6JL
Telephone number	020 8898 1586 or 07956 550726
E-mail	
Registered person	Julie Wild
Type of inspection	Childcare
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

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Whitton Playdays Playgroup opened approximately 30 years ago and is situated in Whitton, Middlesex. It operates from a large hall attached to the church, serving the local community. The group also have access to toilets, a kitchen, side room and small secure outside area. A maximum of 30 children aged two to under five years old may attend the setting at any one time.

The group opens five days a week during term times from 09.15 until 12.00.

There are currently 45 children on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

There are eight full and part-time members of staff. There are four staff with an early years qualification and a further three members of staff are currently working towards a relevant childcare qualification. The setting is not in receipt of funding for early years education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from healthy and nutritious snacks which cater for their individual needs. They enjoy a selection of drinks and food, such as milk, water, plain biscuits and fresh fruit. Parents provide fresh fruit for the children to share during the session. Children have opportunities to pour their own drinks of water for themselves whenever they feel thirsty, this promotes their independence well. Dietary requirements are discussed with parents, and their wishes are respected to ensure only acceptable food is provided. Children are also developing an awareness of healthy eating through arranged cooking activities. This means children gain an understanding of the value of a healthy diet. Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their well-being. They participate in ring games, action songs and opportunities to pedal sit and ride toys. Children have daily opportunities to play in the fresh air.

Children's awareness of hygiene is promoted; they are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. However, children do not wash their hands in the cloakroom wash basin, they go back into the main hall and use antibacterial gel to cleanse their hands. Water bowls are supplied in the main hall for children to wash their hands for cookery and snack time, however, there is no soap available. This means children are not fully protected from the spread of infection. Accident and incident records are completed appropriately and staff hold current first aid certificates.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children play in a secure environment, the front door and outside gates are kept locked during the session. Visitors to the setting sign in and out of the premises. Vetting procedures are in place to ensure only suitable adults work with the children. Most staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding children. However, the child protection policy does not include the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer. This is a breach in regulation and means children's welfare is at risk.

Children are generally encouraged to protect their own well-being. They are aware of prohibited areas such as the kitchen. They develop an awareness of safety measures through emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis. Staff carry out risk assessments around the areas to ensure children's safety. However, they are not recorded and not all hazards are identified such as making safe all low-level electrical sockets in the main hall. Space is well organised so the children can move freely indoors. They enjoy a welcoming environment and have easy access to the safe and appropriate resources, enabling them to have some opportunities of independently selecting activities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident in selecting resources and activities of their choice and initiating their own play. For example, they enjoy role-play, pretending they are preparing meals and laying the table. They take part in arts and crafts and have access to a range of resources. Children are involved in first-hand learning experiences such as cooking and make their own sandwiches selecting their own choice of fillings. Children enjoy singing songs such as 'five currant buns'

and 'one, two, three, four, five, once I caught a fish alive' which helps to support the current topic which is 'food'.

Children play together co-operatively and harmoniously in a happy environment. They are confident about seeking help and the support of staff and happily engage them in conversation. Staff offer assistance appropriately and most staff are effectively involved in children's play. Staff put the emphasis on free play so that children can enjoy themselves and children are able to relax in a comfortable quiet book corner. This helps children to enjoy and make progress in most areas of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

All children are made welcome and most staff pay attention to children's individual needs to ensure they are met appropriately. Children make free choice in their play and use resources, irrespective of their gender. Children are developing a satisfactory awareness of diversity in the wider community as they use books and take part in planned activities. Staff work in partnership with parents in order to meet children's individual needs.

Children behave well as staff give them plenty of praise and support for their efforts and achievements. Staff act as good role models to the children, they speak quietly and calmly. Children's good manners are encouraged through rewarding them with stickers. Staff talk to children about their actions enabling children to develop an awareness of how their actions affect others. Consequently, children develop an awareness of right from wrong.

Letters and cards received by the setting provide evidence that parents are happy with the care their child receives. Parents are made welcome; policies and information are displayed for them to view. Most policies are in place; however, the complaints policy does not reflect the requirements as detailed in the addendum, October 2005, to the National Standards. The setting has limited understanding and knowledge of the content of this document, therefore children's care and welfare is not fully promoted. This is a breach in regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The organisation of the documentation is not complete and not all required documentation to meet the National Standards is in place. There are policies and procedures which staff understand and generally work in practice; however, not all meet with the current legislation in regard to the policy for safeguarding children. The attendance record does not show arrival and departure times of children or staff. The potential impact of this oversight on children's safety and well-being has not been fully considered.

Children generally benefit from an organised and comfortable environment. The space is appropriately organised to enable children to have quiet, restful periods as well as more active and energetic play. Children's details are up to date and all contact numbers recorded to ensure parents can be contacted should a situation occur. Overall, the setting does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection a risk assessment is completed daily and any concerns are recorded. Children's progress is now shared with parents regularly through formal and informal meetings. The setting now benefits from over half the staff holding a relevant childcare qualification. Children and staff now regularly participate in fire drills so that they will know what to do in the event of a real situation.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure the child protection policy includes a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer
- ensure the system for registering children and staff attendance shows the hours of attendance
- ensure all staff are aware of the requirements as set out in the October 2005 addendum to the National Standards and ensure the complaints policy reflects this legislation.

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

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