

Whitton Playdays Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	509703
Inspection date	01 July 2008
Inspector	Deborah Jane Orchard
Setting Address	Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Whitton, Middlesex, TW2 6JL
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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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Whitton Playdays Playgroup is privately run. It opened in 1974 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 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. Seven members of staff, including the manager, hold an early years 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 good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment, which helps contribute to their well-being. The staff follow suitable routines for nappy changing, ensuring children are not being put at risk from cross-infection. Children are able to develop their self-help skills as they go to the bathroom to wash their hands. They are supported by signs, staff encouragement and the availability of a small step, which enables children to reach the taps with ease.

Children are safeguarded by the suitable policies and procedures in place, including policies to cover sick children, medication and accidents. Appropriate permission is obtained from parents regarding medical treatment. Children are being protected from the sun as they put on their hats when playing outside, and the setting seeks parental permission for applying sun cream.

Children enjoy healthy snacks of fruit, which they help to cut up themselves. They learn about healthy eating through discussion and looking at posters displayed on the wall. Children enjoy sociable snack times as they sit together and chat. They are able to help themselves to drinking water when they are thirsty. The required information regarding children's health and dietary needs is obtained from parents and respected.

Children have good opportunities to develop physically. They move freely from indoors to outside, participating in a wide range of activities. Children have fun as they chalk lines on the ground and demonstrate their balancing and coordination skills as they walk along the line. They throw balls with confidence as they play basketball. They have great fun sorting different coloured bean bags and throwing these into hoops. Children enjoy riding a variety of wheeled toys in the outside area, enjoying the benefits of fresh air. Children are able to access a variety of resources to support the development of their fine muscle movements, for example, paintbrushes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around freely as good use is made of inside and outdoor areas. The staff are warm and friendly, which helps children feel at home in the setting. Children have a sense of belonging as they are able to look at their own work displayed on the walls. They freely access a range of suitable resources, which helps children make progress in all areas of their development. They relax in the comfortable book and home corner areas and sit comfortably at low level tables to enjoy their fruit.

The staff are vigilant in supervising children. For example, they approach any onlookers from outside and ensure all areas of the premises have sufficient staff present. Children are kept safe on the premises as visitors are asked to provide identification and sign the visitors book. The main gate is kept secure. The staff carry out daily risk assessments of all areas, which helps identify and minimise any possible hazards. The setting gives attention to making sure children will be kept safe in an emergency. There is an evacuation procedure in place, which is practised and recorded. The exits are kept clear and marked with signs. Suitable fire fighting equipment is in place, which is checked to ensure children remain safe.

Children are being safeguarded as there is a suitable policy in place regarding child protection issues. Staff have an understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and know what action to take if they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the setting as they spend their time purposefully, fully engaged in a range of activities. They are able to relax as they independently select books from the comfortable book area and hold these correctly. They have fun playing imaginatively as they toss play dough pancakes and pretend to be doctors. Children enjoy participating in a range of active play as they make choices in the outdoor area. They are able to concentrate as they sit and fit train track pieces together and listen well at story time. Children explore different textures as they knead play dough and play with the sand and water. They access creative materials and freely create their own pictures using paint and collage.

A weekly plan of activities is on display and the staff observe what children do. However, these observations are not fully evaluated to enable staff to plan for the next steps in children's individual development and play experiences. Children participate at circle time as they confidently join in singing and moving to a variety of action songs. They talk confidently and enthusiastically during the session, sharing their news and experiences with adults and each other.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The setting is welcoming to all children as the staff have a positive attitude towards inclusion. Children with disabilities and learning difficulties are being supported. The staff are aware of their individual needs and work in partnership with parents to ensure these are fully met. Children with English as an additional language are supported as the staff become familiar with any key words to ensure children's needs are being understood. Staff provide a range of activities which positively reflect diversity within the community and all children have access to age appropriate play materials, avoiding any stereotyping.

Children enjoy warm and positive relationships with staff, which helps them feel secure in the setting. Children behave well as the staff are polite and respectful towards them. The setting follows suitable behaviour management procedures, praising and encouraging children and promoting positive behaviour. This enables children to develop a positive self image.

Good relationships between staff, parents and carers enhance children's well-being and continuity of care. There are opportunities for parents and carers to share information about their child both formally and informally. The staff obtain the required information and consent to ensure children's needs are being met within the setting. Parents are provided with information about the service, policies and procedures, including details regarding the complaints procedure. Parents' comments show they are very happy with the service the setting provides for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are able to move around freely in a welcoming and organised environment. The daily routines allow children to enjoy a variety of interesting activities both inside and outdoors. Children are well supervised as the staff are well deployed and staff are attentive to their needs. The children are able to play safely as staff check all areas and equipment regularly.

The staff work well together, which helps children to feel secure and at home in the setting. They meet regularly as a team to discuss areas of their work. However, staff currently have limited opportunities to meet on a one-to-one basis. The setting is committed to developing the service and staff receive some opportunity to attend relevant courses and carry out self evaluation of the service they provide.

The required documentation is in place, kept up-to-date and made readily available for inspection.

Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The outcome of the last inspection was inadequate. The setting was required to address a number of actions to improve the service that it provides to children.

A daily attendance register is now in place, which includes the names of all children who attend, their hours of attendance and the staff looking after them. This ensures that the safety and welfare of children is safeguarded.

The child protection policy has been revised to include the procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. This helps to ensure children's safety is protected.

There is a complaints procedure and a complaints log, together with information for parents, is in place. This means the service to children and parents is enhanced.

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):

- strengthen the method for observing children to inform the next steps in children's play, learning and development
- develop the systems for supporting staff.

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