



St Georges Pre-School P/G

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	315973
Inspection date	23 March 2006
Inspector	Glynis Margaret Kite

Setting Address	Daisy Avenue, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancashire, BL4 0EJ
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Telephone number	07974 929360
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E-mail

Registered person	Maureen Anne Taberner
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Type of inspection	Childcare
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Type of care	Sessional care
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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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

St. George's Pre-School opened in 1996. It operates from St. George's Church Hall in the Farnworth area of Bolton. This serves the local community. The setting supports children with special needs.

There are currently 26 children on roll. The facility does not have funded places for 3 and 4 year olds.

The group opens four mornings a week, from Tuesday to Friday during school term times. sessions are from 9.15 until 11.45.

There are four full-time staff members and one volunteer working with the children; three of which having early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. There is one staff member currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The group receives some support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from good daily routines, which staff adopt to keep the premises clean and tidy. However, children's personal hygiene is not promoted effectively as not all of them are supervised while going to the bathroom or checked afterwards. Therefore, some children are not washing their hands. All children do wash their hands prior to having the mid-morning snack. An exclusion policy for sick children is in place to help prevent the spread of infection. Records are in place for accidents and medication; however, these are not clear.

The dietary needs of individual children are recorded on their registration details. Staff are aware of those children with allergies to milk or juice. Children are offered a basic snacks, such as a piece of apple and a drink. This is never varied, thus children have no opportunities to make choices or try new foods.

Children enjoy physical play both indoors and out. They learn about body parts and how to control movement through singing and movement sessions at the end of the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are maintained to a satisfactory standard of decoration and repair. The environment is warm and welcoming with lots of natural light and it is maintained to a comfortable temperature. Risk to children is minimised because the staff carry out visual checks of the premises every morning before children arrive. They make use of some safety equipment, such as gates and locks on storage cupboards and doors. However, electrical sockets are exposed and not protected; therefore, the children are at risk. Satisfactory safety procedures for local outings are implemented.

Children enjoy freedom of movement to choose the toys and activities they want to play with, from those selected for them by the staff. The toys and play equipment are stored in a large storage cupboard that children do not have access to. The toys and play materials are of a satisfactory quality and safe for use by the children. Furniture and equipment is appropriate to the needs of children.

Staff are confident that they would recognise signs of abuse and neglect and would act appropriately to protect the welfare of children in their care. However, some children are put at risk because they are not supervised adequately when other groups are on the premises.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled. They are confident and enjoy a satisfactory range of toys and activities. All children are engaged in purposeful play and staff support them well. Children particularly enjoy the small world toys and spend a lot of time playing with them. Language and mathematical development is promoted through a range of activities, such as puzzles, books, counting and signing themselves in each day. Some children enjoy playing independently and sometimes together. They interact well with each other and the staff.

The children are learning about sharing and taking turns, as they participate in small group activities. They also enjoy singing and movement; most join in eagerly. Most children are able to follow simple instructions, as they join in with the actions to the songs.

Staff do not provide activities based on any planning; therefore, they are unable to identify individual progress for children or what they need to further their development. Some topical activities are provided, such as cards for Mother's Day or the promotion of dental hygiene.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff exchange sufficient information with parents regarding the needs of their children. A programme of gradual visits enables parents and children to meet the staff and become familiar with the surroundings. Children benefit from these visits and settle quickly. Children have access to a satisfactory range of toys and resources which adequately promote individual development. Some resources are available, which promote positive images and raise awareness of the diversity within the wider community. The staff are sensitive to the needs of children identified as having special needs, and those for whom English is a second language.

Children benefit from the working relationship that the staff have formed with their parents. They exchange information verbally on a daily basis. Behaviour management strategies include discussion and distraction. Staff use positive language when talking to the children and offer praise and encouragement to reward good behaviour. Children behave well.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provider ensures staff are suitable and have had appropriate checks. They are all included in a programme of induction and work well together as a team. However, not all procedures are sufficiently rigorous. For example, the policies and procedures do not take account of the requirements set out in the National Standards for play groups. Staff have also overlooked the requirement to ensure children are never left

alone in the presence of person's not vetted.

The space is organised well to allow children to move around freely, making choices and demonstrating some basic levels of independence. The adult: child ratios are maintained and the attendance register includes all children and staff. Required records and documentation is in place and available for inspection. However, some records lack sufficient information or are not clear.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of those children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the provider has improved the range of toys and activities available to children by ensuring that they have access to toys which promote physical, intellectual, emotional and social development everyday. As a result of these actions the children enjoy a more balanced range of activities.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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 satisfactory. 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):

- review all policies and procedures based on the national standards, and update records for accidents, medication and fire drills.
- plan a wide range of toys and activities to promote choice and meet individual needs and introduce observations to inform future planning and record children's progress
- ensure all electrical sockets are made safe
- provide children with more choice regarding snacks and ensure all children wash their hands after going to the bathroom

- ensure children are supervised at all times when other users are on the premises

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk