



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 254499

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/12/2004
Inspector Name	Lesley Jane Bott

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St Thomas Playgroup
Setting Address	St Thomas Church St Thomas Close Aldridge West Midlands

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of St Thomas Playgroup Management Committee
------	---

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	St Thomas Playgroup Management Committee
Address	St Thomas Church St. Thomas Close Aldridge, Walsall West Midlands WS9 8SL

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

St Thomas Pre-school Playgroup has been registered since 1996. It operates from the St Thomas Church and community rooms. The group has access to the foyer, large hall, small corner room, kitchen and toilets. The pre-school playgroup serves the Aldridge area.

A maximum of 26 children between 2 - 5 years may attend the playgroup at any one time. There are 28 children on roll and none receive funding for nursery education. Children attend a variety of sessions each week. The group can support children with Special Needs in partnership with parents.

The playgroup opens on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 09:30 to 11:45 school term time only.

Three part time staff work with the children. One is working toward NVQ Level III in early years, the others are unqualified. Parents are also encouraged to be actively involved in the sessions. The setting has membership with Pre-school Learning Alliance and receives support and advice from the Early Years Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

St. Thomas Playgroup provides satisfactory care to children.

The setting is safe, clean and tidy with set areas for large motor play with bikes and trikes. Children have clear routines that help them feel secure and give them opportunity to extend their personal independence. However, a risk assessment needs to be carried out on children's access to the toilet area.

A good variety and range of toys and equipment is available which is extended with use of the local toy library. Children can choose resources themselves from the activities on offer. Staff know the children well and have a good knowledge of their individual needs.

Relationships are good with parents and they are kept well informed of their children's activities both verbally and with displays on the notice board. Staff need to attend training to ensure that minimum qualifications are met, and copies of first aid certificates need to be sent to regional centre. A policy needs to be in place on procedures for sickness and children who are infectious. Due to the recent departure of the manager and the deputy currently acting-up, combined with the fact that the

playgroup has recently started to take children from two years, this has had a disruptive effect on the behaviour of the children and this needs to be addressed and procedures amended to address this, particularly for these younger children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff know the children well and are able to address their individual needs and support them in their play and activities.
- There is a wide range of toys and activities available. The rooms are laid out to allow the children easy access to toys and equipment, with areas for quiet and adult supported play.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedures to ensure that staff have childcare qualifications
- risk assessment to minimize hazards
- good hygiene practices
- the procedure for children who are sick or infectious
- the procedure for handling children's behaviour.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare.
6	Conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying action to be taken to minimize identified risk to door used for access to toilets.
7	Ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing.
7	Devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and make sure parents are made aware of it.
7	Ensure that copies of first aid certificates are sent to Regional Centre.
11	Develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.