



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 229001

DfES Number: 533508

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	01/03/2005
Inspector Name	Emma Davies

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Stockland Green Methodist Church Playgroup
Setting Address	Stockland Green Methodist Church Slade Road Birmingham West Midlands B23 7JH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Stockland Green Methodist Church Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Stockland Green Methodist Church Playgroup
Address	Slade Road Erdington Birmingham B23 7JH

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

Stockland Green Methodist Church Playgroup registered in 1993 and operates from a community hall attached to the church. The playgroup is a voluntary group under the management of a committee and serves the local community of Stockland Green, Erdington and surrounding areas. The playgroup has access to 2 halls, toilets, a small kitchen area and an outdoor play area.

The playgroup is open from 09:30 to 11:30 every weekday except Thursdays, and during the spring and summer terms from 09:10 to 11:40 for three years olds in receipt of nursery education funding. There are 29 children on roll currently, 10 of these receive nursery funding. The playgroup supports children for whom English is an additional language and children who have special needs.

Support is given to the group from a teacher mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. There are nine staff and volunteers who work with the children, three of whom have an appropriate early years qualification.

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

Stockland Green Methodist Church Playgroup provides a happy and welcoming environment, where, children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Most staff have a sound knowledge of the foundation curriculum and attend regular training courses. They receive good advice from their mentor teacher and plan a variety of interesting activities which cover the six areas. However, children's choices, resources, and self help skills are sometimes restricted. Children are not always encouraged to write freely and purposefully, or challenged to think about solving practical problems. Staff are calm, patient and provide good role models. They socialise well with the children throughout the session and use praise to reward effort and achievement. Assessments records are now in place and are beginning to inform future planning.

Leadership and management of the group is generally good. Staff work well together and are clear about their roles and duties. They are committed to improving the quality of the educational programme, and recognise their strengths and weaknesses. Planning is developing well and is linked to the stepping stones with identified skills to be addressed. Sessions are sometimes evaluated and monitoring of teaching is discussed informally.

The partnership with parents is very good. Staff are very friendly and parents feel able to discuss their child's progress and any concerns they may have. They are provided with good information about the foundation stage and are encouraged to take an interest. Many parents help in the sessions on a regular basis.

What is being done well?

- The playgroup ensures that all children are well cared for, valued and settled in a secure, happy and friendly place.
- Staff work well as a team and are committed to improving the provision and their knowledge of the early years curriculum.
- Children are confident and enthusiastic. They have developed good relationships with both their peers and adults as they interact and play together
- Staff encourage and praise positive behaviour and effort. They are well informed about individual needs and provide good support.
- There are good supportive links with parents who are well informed and involved in their children's learning and progress.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● opportunities for children to develop independence skills● choices for children to select tools and equipment in order to express their own ideas questioning to extend practical problem solving● resources to develop gross motor skills and to provide a wider range of books● the use of evaluations and a system to monitor teaching.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's confidence and self esteem are built up by staff who are sensitive to their needs and know them well. They relate easily to each other and adults and separate happily from their parents. Children are learning to take turns, and concentrate as they listen to each others musical patterns, share equipment in the cafe, and show consideration for each other as they play in the doctors surgery. However, there are limited opportunities for children to select resources and care for themselves.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children listen attentively to stories and enjoy participating in rhymes. They are linking sounds to letters and are beginning to read familiar words as they recognise their names at the beginning and end of the session. Children play imaginatively and express their feelings as they act out the doctor, patient, receptionist roles, but, they have few opportunities to write notes, prescriptions or to access interesting books for information and stories.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children count and practise number recognition through daily routines, songs and rhymes. They are beginning to name colours and shapes through planned activities, and use language such as; full, and empty as they played in the water tray. There were some missed opportunities for children to learn about solving practical problems, and concepts of more than, less than, for example in snack time.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children learn about the natural world and are developing an understanding of living things as a result of the visit of Zoo Lab. They find out about people who help us from the local community such as firemen and visit the park and library. Children have limited tools and resources to assemble and join materials. A sense of time is developed when children work on 'myself topic'. Festivals, including those from other cultures are celebrated, often with the help and contributions from parents.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children show good control and co-ordination as they move confidently, safely and use equipment with an awareness of space. They are developing good hand and eye co-ordination skills through the "Top Start" programme and competently roll, throw and catch beanbags, balls and hoops. Activities such as cutting, rolling and cutting dough, printing, and threading are helping to develop fine co-ordination but, there are insufficient challenges to develop gross motor skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children explore colour, texture and shape through painting, sand, water and cooking. They enjoy listening to different kinds of music, singing, moving to music, and experiment with making sounds as they play percussion instruments. Children learn to use their imagination in role play and dressing up activities but in art work staff tend to over direct and restrict children's own ideas.	
Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.	

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES

- Increase independence skills and choices for children and find ways to give children opportunities to develop gross motor skills.
- Strengthen the programme for communication, language and literacy by ensuring children's "mark making" and writing skills are developed through free play activities and provide a wider range of good quality books.
- Use daily routines and practical activities to help children develop and consolidate their understanding of number.
- Further develop the use of evaluations and monitor teaching.

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.