



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 305325

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 16/12/2003  
Inspector Name Janice Linsdell

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name ST MARKS CHRISTIAN CENTRE  
Setting Address ST MARKS ROAD  
SALTNEY-CUM-LACHE  
CHESTER  
CH4 8DE

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Marks Under 5's Playgroup Committee

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Marks Under 5's Playgroup Committee  
Address 1 The Crescent  
Newton  
Chester  
CH2 2BP

## 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 Marks Playgroup has been open since February 1974. It operates from the church hall of St Marks Christian Centre, situated in the Saltney-cum-Lache area of Chester. The group is committee run and serves the local area.

There are currently 22 children from two and a half to five years on roll. This includes five funded three year olds and no funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a small number of children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens four days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09.30 until 12.00, Monday to Thursday.

There are five members of staff and one volunteer who work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 3.

As the playgroup is in receipt of funding for nursery education, they have access to a foundation stage teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

St Marks Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children under five years.

The premises are spacious and secure and the session is organised to meet children's needs. Staff work well together, however not all staff have complete appropriate vetting procedures and Ofsted have not been informed of recent changes to the management structure. Relevant playgroup documentation is maintained and most information is accurately recorded, but some records require attention.

Staff plan a range of activities and play experiences to help the children develop. The room is well set out with a good selection of toys and equipment to support children's play. Children are happy, settled and they behave well towards each other and adults.

Staff supervise the children well. Most aspects of safety have been addressed, although a current risk assessment is not available. Appropriate hygiene practices are promoted within the group and children are provided with a choice of drink and

biscuits for their snack.

Staff develop good relationships with parents and keep them informed about the children's care and progress. Feedback from parents is positive, particularly about the friendly, helpful staff and the care and attention they give to the children.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last inspection, the playgroup agreed to address the following action:

maintain a visitors book.

This action has been completed appropriately. A book has been devised and all visitors are required to record the purpose of their visit and their hours of attendance. This helps staff to monitor access to the premises and keep children safe.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Most of the staff are qualified and experienced in caring for children. They work well together as a team and provide appropriate care and support to help the children learn and develop.
- The room is well set out with a good range of toys, equipment and play materials to sustain children's interest and keep them stimulated. Children participate well in all activities and enjoy their play.
- Children's behaviour is well managed. Staff value and promote good behaviour and children receive regular praise and encouragement.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the arrangements to protect children from persons not vetted
- the procedures for keeping Ofsted informed of any significant events
- the procedures for recording the attendance of children and staff
- the arrangements to ensure the safety of the premises
- the procedures to review and update playgroup policies.

#### **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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
1	Make sure that all staff and committee members complete appropriate vetting procedures and ensure that anyone who has not completed clearance, does not have unsupervised access to children.	27/02/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
1	Keep Ofsted informed of any significant changes or events.
2	Record the hours of attendance for children and staff and make sure that the number of children present does not exceed maximum registration.
6	Conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying action to be taken to minimize identified risks and ensure that the gas safety certificate is kept up-to-date.
14	Review and update playgroup policies and procedures in line with revised Standards (child protection, missing children and complaints).

## **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.*