



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 255211

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 18/01/2005  
Inspector Name Zaida Parveen

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Stepping Stones Playgroup  
Setting Address West Smethwick Methodist Church  
St. Pauls Road  
Smethwick  
West Midlands  
B66 1EX

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of West Smethwick Methodist Church  
Enterprise

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name West Smethwick Methodist Church Enterprise  
Address West Smethwick Methodist Church  
St Pauls Road  
Smethwick  
West Midlands  
B66 1EX

## 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

Stepping Stones Playgroup opened in 1999 and operates from one play room in the church. It is situated in West Smethwick Methodist Church in the Sandwell area in the West Midlands. The setting opens week days only. Sessions are from 09:00 until 11:30 for 50 weeks of the year.

The playgroup have access to the kitchen and toilet facilities. There is no outdoor play area, children are taken on visits to the local park.

A maximum of 20 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. There are currently 15 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Children come from the local community. The staff welcome and will support children with special educational needs, and children of who speak English as an additional language.

There are 3 staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years child care qualifications.

### How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children.

The environment is warm and welcoming, to parents and children, is safe and organised well, with displays of positive images posters and children art and craftwork. Children move around the room freely choosing activities of their choice. They have access to a range of toys and resources that are made available and accessible. However resources reflecting positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability are limited. Most policies, procedures and documentation are maintained and stored securely.

The staff team give satisfactory attention to safety issues, risk assessments are conducted daily assessed and recorded. Procedures for the collection of children are clear however arrival and departure times are not recorded. Children have access to drinks through out the session and healthy snacks are provided.

The children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met appropriately. Interaction between staff and children is good and staff involve themselves in children's play and offer assistance, talk and listen the children. However planning to enable the children to progress effectively in all areas is limited. Staff also use children first language encouraging them to follow instructions. Staff manage children's behaviour consistently and in line with the written policy, children

are encouraged to take responsibility of their own behaviour.

The staff team work well with parents maintaining a professional approach. Parents are kept informed through daily conversations, notice boards and newsletters.

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

Action from last Inspection have been met: all staff are qualified, fire log book recording kept and public liability insurance displayed. Complaints procedure includes Ofsted's contact details, ACPC is shared with parents, all staff attended training, policy in place for lost and uncollected children and Ofsted are kept informed of staff and other changes. The playgroup have applied for funding from Local Area Budget Smethwick Town Committee to replace a carpet and to purchase more toys and equipment.

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

- A range of toys and activities are available, enabling children to make progress in all areas of learning. They play confidently with a selection of play equipment from which they choose freely.
- Good relationships are promoted between staff, children and within the peer group. Staff know the children well, they are happy and well settled, and staff spend time talking to them and helping them to learn.
- Clear instructions, praise, compliments and encouragement are given to the children and they respond well. Children behave well, take turns and share.
- Staff use encouraging words in the child's first language.
- Partnership with parents is good. Staff care for children in accordance with their parents' wishes and information is exchanged verbally after session.

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

- the recording of children's arrival and departure times;
- children's development progress reports to help plan the next steps in children learning;
- the safety of floor coverings;
- the range of resources which promote positive images of culture, gender and disability;
- the availability of a copy of the Code of Practise 2002.

**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	Ensure children arrival and departure times are recorded.
3	Ensure children development progress is recorded to help plan the next steps in children learning.
6	Ensure carpet area is made safe.
9	Increase the range of resources which promote positive images of culture, gender and disability;
10	Obtain a copy of the Code of Practice.

## **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.*