



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 254465

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 20/09/2004  
Inspector Name Rosemary Linda Tomkins

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Little Fishes Playgroup  
Setting Address St Marys Parish Church Rooms  
The Green, Aldridge  
Walsall  
West Midlands

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Little Fishes Management Committee

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Little Fishes Management Committee  
Address St Mary's Parish Church  
The Green, Aldridge  
Walsall  
West Midlands  
WS9 8NH

## 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

Little Fishes Playgroup opened in 1996. It operates from two large rooms in the Church Rooms close to the centre of Aldridge, Walsall. The playgroup serves the local area.

Currently, there are 36 children aged 2 to 3 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The playgroup opens Monday and Friday mornings and Tuesday afternoons during school term times. Sessions are from 09:30 until 11:45 and 12:45 until 14:45.

There are four full time and part time staff who work with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 3 and there is also a Qualified Special Needs Teacher. The playgroup receives support from a development worker from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

Little Fishes Playgroup provides good quality care for children.

Staff give high priority to ensuring children are safe both inside and outside the nursery. They consistently carry out the procedures outlined in the comprehensive safety policies, but the attendance register lacks some detail. Staff ensure that the available space is well organised and planned. Although there are no children with special needs or language requirements currently attending there are satisfactory arrangements in place to ensure they are fully supported and included in activities. Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment.

There are procedures in place to ensure staff have a consistent approach to their work, such as induction training, staff meetings and training plans. The staff team work to a high child adult ratio and ensure children are well supervised at all times. Staff are aware of children's individual needs and attend to their health and dietary needs competently. However, the accident records and child protection policy are limited.

Children are provided with interesting imaginative activities both inside and outside, the children enjoy outings and walks. Children are happy and settled and have good relationships with staff and each other. Children are well behaved and respond well

to requests to help clear away activities, share and take turns.

There is a very good relationship with parents and carers. They are provided with detailed written information on activities and are verbally informed on the progress of their children on a regular basis.

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

Not applicable, as there were no actions raised at the last inspection.

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

- Staff plan and organise the space well. They provide opportunities for children to choose and play imaginatively.
- The children are interested and absorbed in their activities and well used to the routine, they are happy and settled. They are well behaved and have good relationships with staff and each other. Children show concern for one another and easily share and take turns.
- Children are provided with healthy meals and snacks and drinks are readily available.
- The relationships with parents and carers is very good, children and parents are welcomed individually into a warm and welcoming setting. Confidentiality is maintained and parents have open access to their individually maintained children's records at all times.
- Parents are encouraged to be involved in the day to day operation of the playgroup.

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

- the organisation of the attendance register to include times of arrival and departure of children.
- the arrangements for recording accidents
- the written child protection policy to include a clear procedure for staff to follow in the event of allegations of abuse.

#### **Outcome of the inspection**

Good

## 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 times of arrival and departure of children are recorded in the attendance register.  |
| 7   | Ensure children's accident records are maintained confidentially.   |
| 13  | Ensure there is clear written procedure for staff to follow in the event of allegations of abuse included in the child protection policy. |

## **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.*