



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 318678

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	22/10/2003
Inspector Name	Lynda, Margaret Ronan

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St Mary's Playgroup
Setting Address	Church Hall, Vicarage Road Davyhulme, Urmston Manchester Lancashire M41 5TP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	. St Mary's Playgroup Comittee
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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 Mary's Playgroup Management Committee is registered to provide sessional care at St Mary's Playgroup. The play group has been registered since 1992 under The Children Act but was established 30 years ago.

St Mary's Church is situated on Davyhulme Road, which is the main thoroughfare for Davyhulme and Flixton. The entrance to the play group is at the side of the church in Entwistle Avenue. The playgroup has sole use of the church hall during opening hours. There is a secure outdoor play area available.

There are currently 56 children from two to five years on roll. This includes funded three year olds. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports children with special needs.

The group opens Tuesday to Friday during school term times. Sessions are from 9:00 until 12:00.

Four full time staff work with the children, all the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 3. One voluntary member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Saint Mary's Playgroup Committee provides good quality care. All permanent staff are qualified in childcare to level three and are committed to self development and regularly attend training. Good communication between the registered committee and operational staff is effective in delivering a consistently good service. The comprehensive operational plan and activity plans combine to ensure the whole curriculum is delivered to each child. A key worker system effectively supports children's confidence and development and enables effective communication between the setting and parents. Roles and responsibilities of all personnel are clearly defined resulting in the intended service being delivered to children. The learning environment is well planned to be welcoming and to foster independence and confidence in children whilst protecting them. Well organised documentation is reviewed annually.

Staff have a good awareness of safety issues but have not recorded a risk assessment, they are currently seeking training in this area. The special educational needs policy is very comprehensive and covers all areas required by legislation, staff demonstrated a good understanding in this area and regular assessments enable early detection and appropriate action. Plans record a positive approach to valuing diversity and issues are often discussed at circle time. Children wash hands at appropriate times but not in an appropriate manner. The group do not always have a qualified first aider on the premises and staff are currently seeking qualification.

Behaviour is managed in a positive manner, children are encouraged to be self-disciplined and staff provide good role models. A flexible learning environment meets the needs of all children providing them with a wide range of interesting, stimulating and appropriate activities.

Children are settled, confident and are beginning to form friendships.

Parents value the service offered by the setting.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Saint Mary's Playgroup Committee, at the last inspection, agreed to address three recommendations. They have made good progress in all three areas; the group now have a written equal opportunities statement which complies with legislation, have formalised the procedure to appoint new staff and have taken a policy decision that all current and future staff will be fully qualified which is above the qualification requirements of The National Standards for Day Care.

What is being done well?

- The thorough organisation of every aspect of the provision provides staff and children with clear aims and objectives and the means to achieve them.
- Children are engaged in interesting, enjoyable and stimulating activities. Observation and assessment allow the staff to challenge and support each child through provision of appropriate activities and skilful questioning.
- Resources are chosen with care and organised to attract children, for example a group of children enjoyed dressing bears in tee shirts and shorts matching the same number of dots on each article of clothing, whilst another group hung numbered teddy bears on a washing line in the correct order.
- Good emphasis is given to equal opportunities. A written statement includes all aspects of the group including employment and the group invites members of the community to share their experiences with the children.
- The comprehensive special educational needs policy and the staffs understanding of child development and the special needs code of practice enables them to support children well.
- Behaviour is managed through a variety of positive techniques, for example, the staff provide an exemplary role model of courteous and caring behaviour, they invite children to explore why they have behaved in a certain manner

and to explore other options open to them, when a toy is being inappropriately used its correct use is discussed by the whole group at circle time and agreed boundaries are consistently applied.

What needs to be improved?

- the risk assessment of the premises
- the accessibility of fresh drinking water for children
- the hygiene when children are washing hands.

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
6	Conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying action(s) to be taken to minimize identified risks.
7	Ensure good hygiene practices are in place with regard to hand washing.
8	Ensure children have access to fresh drinking water at all times.

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.