



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 318678

DfES Number: 534807

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	14/01/2005
Inspector Name	Susan, Helen Spencer

### 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	The Committee of St. Mary's Playgroup
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	St. Mary's Playgroup
Address	Church Hall Vicarage Road, Urmston Manchester Lancashire M41 5TP

## 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

St Mary's Playgroup first opened over 30 years ago and became registered in 1992. It has sole use of St Mary's church hall, toilets and a kitchen during opening hours. There is a small secured outdoor play area. The playgroup is located in Davyhulme on the main thoroughfare to Flixton and mainly serves the local community.

There are currently 36 children on roll aged between two and four years. This includes 12 funded children.

The playgroup opens Tuesday to Friday during term times only. Sessions are from 09.00 until 11.30 hours.

Six staff work with the children all of whom hold child care and education qualifications. The pre-school receives support from Trafford's Sure Start/Early Years Team.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

St Mary's Playgroup provides high quality nursery education which enables children to make very good progress overall towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

Teaching is very good. The warm and friendly staff team work well together to provide an attractive and effective environment where children learn through well-organised play activities. Plans are detailed and effective to provide full coverage of the stepping stones towards the early learning goals of which staff have a good understanding. Assessment is thorough, based on careful and regular observations of children's play and learning. Staff plan for and target children's future learning based on what they already know and can do. This ensures that children are challenged at an appropriate level and that their individual needs are met. Time and resources are used effectively overall. Some large group activities are not fully effective and some children find it difficult to sit quietly to listen and concentrate due to high noise levels. Staff are kind and consistent in their management of children's behaviour. They have clear expectations and set realistic boundaries.

The leadership and management are very good. Staff and managers work well together. There are clear roles and shared responsibilities. Staff take turns to write up plans on a rotational basis. This ensures consistency and continuity over time. There are good systems to review and monitor planning and provision. These accurately reflect the strengths and areas for improvement.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive good quality information about children's play and learning supplemented by regular newsletters. Parents and staff share information about children which is used to inform planning for children's future learning. Parents appreciate the well-established key worker system. Parents can be as actively involved as they want to be as volunteer helpers or to stay with their child.

### What is being done well?

- Creative play is well managed and organised to promote learning in other areas. Children can choose freely from an interesting range of materials and engage in activities in a quiet and dedicated area. They are well supported by staff who facilitate children's free expression of ideas well. The positive child to adult ratios ensure that children learn about other aspects of learning as they play. Staff promote children's language for thinking through creative play, extend their knowledge and understanding of their own environment and the wider world.
- The playgroup benefits from good leadership and effective team work. The team is well-established and stable. They work well together and are supportive of each other, the children and their families. There is a high level

of commitment to reviewing and improving provision.

- Planning is detailed and effective to ensure a good and full coverage of the stepping stones towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning. Good attention is paid to activities that are provided continuously with clear guidance for staff, parents and volunteers so that most effective use is made of these activities to promote learning through play.
- Parents and staff work effectively together to the benefit of the children. Staff know the children and their families well. Parents respect and appreciate the level of support that staff give to children and the care taken to meet children's individual needs.
- The key worker system is well established and effective. Each child is allocated a special member of staff shortly after starting playgroup. Parents know their child's key worker and understand the responsibilities to observe, record and assess each child's achievement and progress. This ensures that children's learning is clearly targeted.
- The play environment is attractive and well organised to promote learning through children's first hand experiences. Play is based on children's interests and free choices.

<b>What needs to be improved?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● opportunities for children to write and make marks as part of their free play in everyday activities</li><li>● the management of some large group activities</li></ul>



<b>What has improved since the last inspection?</b>
Not applicable.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are very confident and self-assured. Their ideas are valued by staff which is effective in promoting their self-esteem. Children play well together, sharing materials and playing co-operatively in small and large group activities. Behaviour is good and is well supported by well-established routines and clear boundaries. Children manage their own personal hygiene needs and put on their own aprons for messy activities. They help staff willingly at tidy up times and by serving snacks.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children use language well. They learn about the shapes and sounds of the letters in their names through meaningful activities. Some use their name cards to copy from when naming their own work. Early writing is well-resourced and used freely by children, but not extended into other areas such as home play. Children enjoy books and use them carefully and as a useful source of information. Children listen well overall but some children find this more difficult in larger group activities.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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This is a well-integrated aspect of children's play activities. They enjoy learning about number and numerals through using good quality games, puzzles and other resources that hold interest for them. Their play and learning is well-supported. They learn about ideas of more and less in practical ways that hold meaning for them. They discuss shape, size and pattern whilst taking part in creative activities and when using small world play materials. Numbers to five and beyond are used confidently.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Planned themes and topics provide good chances for children to explore and investigate the natural and made world. They design and build using construction sets, recycled materials and tools. They use a cassette recorder and camera for themselves and a microwave to cook. They learn about the environment and the wider world through good first hand experiences, clearly focussed discussion and books. They learn about other people and their lifestyles in ways that interest them and hold meaning.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Chances for children to practise and improve their skills of climbing are freely available. They use a good range of equipment confidently and safely showing good control and co-ordination over their bodies as they use wheeled toys and play parachute games. They use balls with exceptional skill as they practise aiming, throwing and kicking. Their hand skills are developing well as they use construction, creative and writing materials competently and confidently.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children access a good range of creative materials from which they can freely choose. They use these well to express their own ideas freely and imaginatively. Children's own work, ideas and choices are highly valued and respected and children show pride in their achievements. Children enjoy using small world and role play materials that are particularly effective in supporting learning in other areas such as knowledge and understanding of the world and personal, social and emotional development.

**Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.**

## **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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**

*There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:*

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to the following:
- review the organisation of group activities to promote careful listening and provide effective opportunities for discussion to encourage children who might be reluctant to speak in larger groups and to capture the interest needs of older children and those who learn more quickly.

*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.*