



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 255211

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 26/08/2003
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 West Smethwick Methodist Church

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name West Smethwick Methodist Church
Address The Minister, 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

This is run by a Charity. Stepping stones playgroup is currently registered to provide sessional care for 20 children aged between 2 years and 5 years.

The playgroup is based in the West Smethwick Methodist Church building within walking distance of local shop and public transport. The playgroup have use of 1 playroom, kitchen and toilet facilities.

The building is also used to provide lunchtime meals for the elderly in the community.

The playgroup open everyday from 9 am to 11.30 am.

At present 15 children attend from the local community 1 child attending has english as an additional language, there are no children who have special needs.

There are 3 staff members who are suitably qualified and experienced with relevant Child Care Qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones provide unsatisfactory care for children.

The premises are safe, clean and tidy. The play area used by the children is maintained at an appropriate temperature. The environment is welcoming for parents and is displayed with positive image posters and children's work. There is a range of resources, including some that promote positive images, however these were not made available to the children as they were kept in another room. Children's day is organised to meet their individual needs, children are provided with a balance of interesting and stimulating activities. Paper work was limited polices and procedures are not regularly reviewed. The group did not have the ACPC (Area Child Protection Committee) guidance and the relevant contact numbers. The playgroup gives satisfactory attention to health and hygiene routines, but children do not have access to hot water in the bathroom to wash their hands. Staff have a good awareness of hazards inside. There is a policy for outings parents giving their consent. Positive steps are taken to promote children's safety, the front door is kept locked and staff are responsible for letting parents in. The playgroup attends to children's dietary needs well, ensuring children with specific requirements are met. There are consistent methods of managing children's behaviour, avoiding negative

language. The playgroup works well in partnership with parents and maintains a professional approach. Parents are kept informed through daily conversations and verbal feedback.

What has improved since the last inspection?

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

What is being done well?

- The playgroup have good relationships with children, and meet their individual needs. There is a limited range of toys and equipment for children which are stimulating and interesting. Children are able to self-select toys and ask for more if not out.
- Regular risk assessments are carried by staff on the premises in the play room, however it is not recorded.
- There are procedures for behaviour management and health & safety.
- There is good partnership with parents, who are kept informed and are encouraged to take part in social outings with their children, and to work in the play group.

What needs to be improved?

- provide a wider range of toys and equipment to help children progress in all areas of development and make them accessible,
- resources to reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability,
- inform Ofsted of any changes to premises and staff,
- procedure for lost or uncollected children to be in place,
- record departure of children,
- practise and record fire drills,
- secure safety gate across the kitchen area,
- pantry door to be inaccessible to the children,
- regulate hot water in the toilet area,
- display liability insurance,
- fresh drinking water to be made available during play session,
- procedure for parents to make a complaint to Ofsted with contact number,
- to follow ACPC procedures and all staff to have knowledge of child protection issues,
- all policy and procedures to be made available to the play group leader, record all risk assessments on premises and equipment, maintain staffing ratios at all

times, depolment register to be inplace.

Outcome of the inspection

Unsatisfactory

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	Notify Ofsted of changes and matters of staffing.	06/03/2004
1	CRB checks are completed on all staff	06/03/2004
1	S.P.I. for the playgroup leader.	10/03/2004
2	Procedures for lost or uncollected children	10/03/2004
2	Maintain staffing ratio's at all times	29/02/2004
6	A statement of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire	10/03/2004
6	records all fire drills practised.	06/03/2004
12	A Complaint procedure for parents with Ofsted contact number	06/03/2004
13	ACPC procedures to be put into practise and all staff to have knowledge of child protection issues	06/03/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
2	record departure of children on register.
3	toys to be made available, build on resources which help children make progress in all areas of their development.
6	make pantry door in play room inaccessible
6	safety gate across the kitchen area to be secured.
7	regulate hot water in the toilet area. display liability insurance
8	make fresh drinking water available throughout the session.

9	resources that reflect positive images of ethnicity, culture, gender and disability
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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.