



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 103850

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	11/03/2004
Inspector Name	Linda Patricia Coccia

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	St Nicholas Playgroup
Setting Address	St Nicholas Vestry St Nicholas Church, High Street, Strood Rochester Kent ME2 4TR

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Diane Chamberlain
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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 Nicholas Playgroup opened in 1989. It operates from one room in a church in Strood, Kent. The pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 37 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes 10 funded 3-year-olds and 10 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports 2 children with Special Needs and no children with English as an additional language.

The group opens 4 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09.15 to 11.45 & 12.30 to 15.00.

There are six staff who work with the children. Five of the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One of the staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a mentor from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

St Nicholas Playgroup provides good quality care for children. The staff have very good relationships with the children and are respectful of their needs.

The day care is well organised. The staff work effectively as a team. The operational plan is well written and made available to parents. The group have effective procedures for the recruitment and vetting of staff. An attendance record is well maintained and arrival and departure times are noted in a separate book. The premises, toys and equipment are clean and well maintained.

The children are safe and well cared for. The premises are secure. Daily risk assessments are carried out and appropriate safety equipment is in place. Children practise emergency evacuation procedures. The group's accident and medication records are well maintained and are confidential. Children are provided with drinks and snacks which are healthy and nutritious. However, children could be encouraged to be more independent when in the milk bar. The group has child protection procedures which are in accordance with their local authority guidelines. Children with special needs are well supported by staff and other health professionals.

The group provides a very good selection of toys and activities which help children

develop in all areas of learning. Children are able to make choices about the toys they play with and they are supported by staff who encourage experimentation and imagination. All children have access to all toys. There are plenty of positive images of equality of opportunity for race, culture, disability and gender. Children work in a large group at music time. Staff praise and encourage good behaviour and children are well behaved and co-operative.

The group has plenty of evidence of positive feedback from parents. Parents are given lots of written information about how the group functions and have regular meetings with staff to discuss how their children are progressing.

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

Not applicable.

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

- The staff have very good relationships with the children. They enjoy their company and know them well. They spend a lot of time talking and playing with children and helping them to learn. The children are very happy and settled.
- The premises are safe and secure for children. Appropriate safety equipment, such as socket covers, are used. The children practise evacuation procedures to enable them to leave the premises safely in an emergency.
- The group have effective procedures for sharing children's progress records with parents. Parents can access the records whenever they want. The group also hosts regular coffee mornings for all parents to discuss their child's progress with staff. Children receive consistent care.
- The group meets the individual needs of all children. Extra help is available for younger children, for example, help on physical play equipment, and children with special needs, for example, setting up activities to help them in their required area of development. Achievements are acknowledged. Children are very confident.
- The staff use positive and consistent strategies to manage children's behaviour. Strategies are planned to ensure individual children's needs are met. Reward stickers are sometimes used. The children are well behaved and respectful.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

The use of musical instruments is excellent. The children work as a large group when they use the instruments and it is clear that they are used often. The children are able to sing and play very efficiently. They are able to keep a beat when playing. They understand playing loudly and softly and fast and slow depending on the song. Individual children are confident enough to play individual instruments competently on their own.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the written procedures for risk assessments
- the independence of children at snack bar times.

**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
8	Increase the amount of children's independence during snack bar time.

## **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.*