

St Mary's Playgroup

Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Davyhulme, Urmston, MANCHESTER, Lancashire, M41 5TP

Inspection date

20/11/2013

Previous inspection date

20/01/2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This inspection:

3

Previous inspection:

2

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision	3

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This provision requires improvement

- Educational programmes for the prime and specific areas of learning are covered by the strategic daily layout of resources for children to use.
- Staff work well with parents to help children to settle. Parents are engaged in their child's achievements and kept informed of their child's activities through a variety of methods. This shared approach successfully contributes to progress that children make.
- Appropriate bonds and secure emotional attachments are formed between children and staff, which supports children's emotional well-being.
- The playgroup environment is safe, welcoming and very well-resourced. There is a wide range of activities for children to take part in. The outdoor area is in use on a daily basis giving children access to fresh air and physical development opportunities.

It is not yet good because

- Not all people who have regular contact with children and work on the premises have obtained an application from the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- The quality of teaching is not extending all children's learning as not all staff recognise opportunities to join in with play or use information from observations to plan consistently challenging activities for children, to ensure they make better than satisfactory progress.
- Children do not have free opportunities to access outdoor play to further promote their learning and development.

Information about this inspection

Inspections of registered early years provision are:

- scheduled at least once in every inspection cycle – the current cycle ends on 31 July 2016
- scheduled more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged inadequate
- brought forward in the inspection cycle where Ofsted has received information that suggests the provision may not be meeting the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage or where assessment of the provision identifies a need for early inspection
- prioritised where we have received information that the provision is not meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which suggests children may not be safe
- scheduled at the completion of an investigation into failure to comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children during activities both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.
- The inspector spoke with the manager and staff at appropriate times throughout the day

Inspector

Tracey Firth

Full report

Information about the setting

St Mary's Playgroup was registered in 1992. It operates from a large church hall which is used by other community groups in the afternoons and evenings when playgroup is closed. The hall is situated in a residential area close to a number of schools, some of which the playgroup have established links with. Children have supervised access to an enclosed outdoor play area within the church grounds. There is a disabled toilet, baby changing facility and cloak room for children to use under supervision. Opening hours are five mornings a week from 9am until 12noon during local term times. There are five permanent and three bank staff. All permanent staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. There are currently 28 children on roll, all of whom are within the early years age range. The playgroup is registered on the Early Years Register.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure that people working directly with children are suitable by obtaining a Disclosure and Barring Service check
- implement effective systems for supervision, performance management and continuous professional development of staff. This relates to developing staff knowledge of how to use observations of what children can already do to target their next steps in learning and extend children's learning through good quality teaching, so that children are best supported to make good progress.

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- develop the use of outdoors even further by providing increased opportunities for children to play and explore in the outdoor environment.

Inspection judgements

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend

Educational programmes for the prime and specific areas of learning are covered by the strategic daily layout of resources for children to use. Staff plan around continuous play while supporting children's own ideas. Children are obviously enjoying themselves and have confidence to approach staff, who demonstrate caring, kind and attentive behaviour.

However, this does not help all children to reach the level of development typical for their age. This is because staff interaction with children is inconsistent. This minimises

opportunities to extend and promoted learning effectively. There is little evidence of children being assessed or any next steps recognised and planned for. Activities files are used for photographic recording of child's achievements, but there is no mention of what learning has taken place. As a result, although children make satisfactory progress, staff do not help children to make better progress at this. Staff work well with parents to help children to settle. Parents are engaged in their child's achievements and kept informed of their child's activities through a variety of methods. When interviewed, all parents were happy with communication they received from the playgroup.

Teaching requires improvement because planning is not linked to adults' observations of the achievements of individual children. The quality of teaching is not extending all children's learning as not all staff recognise opportunities to join in with play. Not all children are listened to perceptively or skilfully questioned during activities in order to reshape tasks and explanations to improve learning. Children enjoy the play activities and although staff initially make assessments of children, they do not consistently use the information to monitor children's learning and development or always plan activities to challenge them. As a result, some activities are not sufficiently engaging or demanding for those children capable of more.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children

All staff consider appropriate secure emotional attachments with all children, especially the very young and those with additional needs, important. All children are happy to approach staff and do so regularly. Appropriate bonds and secure emotional attachments are formed. Parental feedback state that key persons are approachable and offer help when requested and they are happy with their child's progress and communication. Children are happy and enjoy what they are doing. Care practices ensure they learn to behave well and play cooperatively. Behaviour management strategies are shared with parents. Adults teach children about keeping safe and taking care of themselves and each other.

Children are supported in developing an understanding of the importance of physical exercise and a healthy diet and to manage their own hygiene and welfare. Children know to sanitise their own hands before eating and wash their hands after using the toilet. Fruit, vegetables and water are available throughout the session. Transitions to other settings are managed well and school integration starts with visits from schools by teachers and pupils.

The playgroup environment is safe, welcoming and very well-resourced. There is a wide range of activities for children to take part in. The outdoor area is in use on a daily basis. Children are supervised for their own safety as there is a short walk across the church grounds to access it. However, staff do not always make the best use of resources and space outdoors to provide good quality learning experiences for all children and keep them motivated and engaged or encourage them to explore their surroundings and use their imagination outdoors.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision

Recruitment practices are generally sound and suitable induction arrangements are in place to ensure those working with children, are suitable to do so and understand their roles and responsibilities. However, an application to the Disclosure and Barring Service has yet to be made for the newest member of staff who has been on the premises for almost three weeks. Steps are taken by the staff to ensure suitability and safety of the indoor and outdoor areas, furniture, equipment and toys. Children are supervised well at all times. The hall is adapted to meet the needs of children as the open plan room is divided into separate play areas to ensure the needs of children are met. Risk assessments are carried out prior to outdoor activities, such as outdoor free play and trips out. The safeguarding policy and procedures include an explanation of the action to be taken in the event of an allegation made against a member of staff and covers the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting. The manager has compiled a training matrix and has identified that safeguarding training is a priority. She has recently attended a training course herself and will be arranging for her staff to attend also.

The new manager has identified areas requiring improvement and has begun to develop strategies to address these. This includes plans to offer further support and training to her staff in improving the quality of teaching. She is introducing appraisals and has been holding staff meetings several times each week to help recognise and prioritise areas in need of improvement. Playgroup work in partnership with other schools and professionals to identify children's needs and help them make progress. Help is requested for children identified as needing extra support from the local Early Year's Team and their special educational needs coordinator. Individual Learning Plans are developed and are communicated to the children's next setting in order to promote consistency in children's learning experiences.

The new manager is in the process of collating contributions from staff, parents, children and committee members to improvement plans for the playgroup. This has been done via discussions, questionnaires, weekly newsletters and invites to meetings. There is also a suggestion box in the foyer where parents can make anonymous comments.

What inspection judgements mean

Registered early years provision

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Outstanding provision is highly effective in meeting the needs of all children exceptionally well. This ensures that children are very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 2	Good	Good provision is effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	The provision is not giving children a good standard of early years education and/or there are minor breaches of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be monitored and inspected within twelve months of the date of this inspection.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement action. The provision is failing to give children an acceptable standard of early years education and/or is not meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be monitored and inspected again within six months of the date of this inspection.
Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider continues to meet the requirements for registration.
Not met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider does not meet the requirements for registration.

Inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Setting details

Unique reference number	318678
Local authority	Trafford
Inspection number	865159
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	28
Name of provider	St. Mary's Playgroup (Davyhulme) Committee
Date of previous inspection	20/01/2009
Telephone number	0161 747 2216

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Type of provision

For the purposes of this inspection the following definitions apply:

Full-time provision is that which operates for more than three hours. These are usually known as nurseries, nursery schools and pre-schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the higher fee for registration.

Sessional provision operates for more than two hours but does not exceed three hours in any one day. These are usually known as pre-schools, kindergartens or nursery schools

and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the lower fee for registration.

Childminders care for one or more children where individual children attend for a period of more than two hours in any one day. They operate from domestic premises, which are usually the childminder's own home. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Out of school provision may be sessional or full-time provision and is delivered before or after school and/or in the summer holidays. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Where children receive their Early Years Foundation Stage in school these providers do not have to deliver the learning and development requirements in full but should complement the experiences children receive in school.

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