



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 131741

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 17/06/2004  
Inspector Name Chris Banks

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name St Marys Church Playgroup  
Setting Address Upper Street  
Islington  
London  
N1 2TX

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of The Committee of St Marys Church  
Playgroup

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Marys Church Playgroup  
Address St Marys Church Playgroup  
Upper Street  
London  
N1 2TX

## 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 Church Playgroup was registered in 1994.

It operates from a Church Neighbourhood Centre in the N1 area of the London Borough of Islington and serves families living in the local catchment area. Children have access to a hall and outdoor play area.

There are currently 22 children aged between 3 and 5 years on roll. This includes 9 funded 3 year olds and 12 funded 4 year olds.

The setting currently supports children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The group operates term time only and is open from 09:30 until 12:00 noon, five days a week.

Two of the three staff who work with the children hold appropriate Early Years Qualifications.

### How good is the Day Care?

St Mary's Church Playgroup provides a good standard of care for children.

The shared premises are clean, bright and suitably maintained with satisfactory standards of hygiene throughout. Staff create a warm and welcoming play environment by ensuring space is well organised and prepared in advance of children's arrival. Safety is well promoted both in and outside the setting and a clearly documented operational plan developed by the group includes all required health and safety procedures.

The staff team are appropriately qualified and regularly update their childcare practice skills by attending relevant training courses with Islington Council.

Staff work co operatively to provide children with a well balanced range of play activities that includes good opportunities for them to play independently and in groups. Staff also regularly organise interesting and stimulating off site trips. Children are well supported by staff and clear systems for recording children's progress helps ensure their learning and development is suitably monitored. Children are familiar and confident with daily routines and are well settled. They are

encouraged to make choices and are also able to self select from a reasonably diverse range of play resources and materials.

Partnerships with parents are good. They are actively encouraged to be involved with the service and are kept well informed about their child's progress. Some aspects of written information to parents, however, is now outdated and does not include key information about the role of staff in protecting the welfare of children.

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

The staff and Management Committee have developed a comprehensive, written operational plan

Record keeping arrangements are better organised.

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

- The staff and management committee have worked co operatively to update the operational plan. Policies and procedures are written in clear, user friendly language and cover all aspects of the service.
- There are good opportunities for off site trips. Most recently, children have visited the local puppet theatre and fire station.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- arrangements to ensure parents give written permission for staff to seek emergency medical treatment and advice.
- updated written information to parents to include information about the staff's responsibility in relation to Child Protection.

#### **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
7	request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
13	ensure parents are informed of staff roles and responsibilities in relation to Child Protection

## **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.*