



## Rainbow Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY284515
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennifer Liverpool
<b>Setting Address</b>	Derby Hall, West Green Road, London, N15 3PJ
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<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - enforcement action. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rainbow Nursery was registered in September 2004. The nursery is a privately owned, full day care provision situated in the South Tottenham area within the London borough of Haringey. It operates from a church hall and has access to two play rooms, toilet areas for staff and children, a kitchen and an office. A maximum of 26 children may attend the nursery at any one. The nursery opens five days a week, all year round, from 08:00 to 18:00. There is access to an outdoor play area.

There are currently 16 children aged five months to five years on roll. The nursery

employs six staff. Of those three of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health needs are not consistently met by staff. There are inconsistent systems in place to prevent the spread of infection. For example, inappropriate practice by staff when changing nappies means that children's health is put at risk because there is no immediate access to water in the room and not all staff wear disposable gloves. Soiled nappies are disposed in waste bins in the baby room and babies and young children can access the bins during play. Although children have access to liquid soap for washing there are no proper facilities for drying their hands and children are seen to wipe their hands on their clothes or walk around with wet hands.

There are appropriate systems in place for recording medication administered to children. Although two staff members now hold current first aid certificates, planned absence and deployment of staff result in the setting not having a member of staff qualified to administer first aid during some periods of the day. This means that children cannot receive appropriate care in the event of an accident. Children have regular access to outdoor activities and young children are gaining confidence in climbing up and down the mini climbing equipment. Older children chase each other around the outdoor area. They confidently pour water into different containers at the water tray and show enjoyment in handling corn flakes and pasta mix. These activities help to promote children's fine and gross motor skills.

Children are provided with generally balanced and nutritious meals that are mostly varied, and they received generous portions for all appetites. Children are offered fresh drinking water throughout the session. This ensures that they do not get thirsty or dehydrated. Staff gather relevant information regarding children's diet and medical history. This ensures that children's dietary and medical needs are met. Babies learn to feed themselves, which helps develop their independence. Babies and young children sleep according to their own needs and information about their care routines is shared with parents. All of which, contributes to their physical well-being.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is inadequate.

Continued breaches of regulation leave children potentially at risk from harm because the required adult to child ratios are not met, particularly during the early morning shift. Children are further put at risk because they are left alone with members of staff who have not been vetted. Children's safety is not given enough consideration because the management lack the knowledge and skills to act accordingly and take steps to protect children from potential danger. The fire safety equipment that was

previously identified as needing to be serviced has not yet been checked. Not all children are familiar with practising emergency evacuations as fire drills are not conducted on a regular basis. The stairgate at the kitchen doorway is not consistently closed and children are observed pushing the gate and attempting to enter whilst the cook is preparing meals.

Children have ample space to work and play, and they move freely between indoor and outdoor play areas. There is a secure entry system at the front of the building and visitors are monitored when on the premises. Children play with an adequate range of toys and equipment, which are developmentally appropriate and mainly of satisfactory quality. However some items such as a number of books are not well maintained. Also there are a few dolls with missing limbs and a couple of puzzles with missing pieces. Overall, children have generally safe and easy access to some of the toys stored at their level. There is some suitable furniture such as high chairs with safety harnesses and travel cots for the safety and comfort of babies and young children.

Staff have a generally good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and most of them are aware of the child protection policies and understand the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child in their care.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is inadequate.

Staff caring for babies and young children provides appropriate care, however there is not enough activity or interaction to stimulate their development or learning. Babies are fed and changed according to their own needs throughout the day and put to sleep or rest when they need to. The key worker system ensures that staff get to know each child and observations and assessments are regularly carried out on children. However, this does not fully cover all areas of development and therefore areas such as children's physical and communication and language development is overlooked in planning.

There are limited opportunities for babies and young children to respond creatively as the only few activities repeatedly offered to them are free painting, Lego painting and dressing up clothes. Whilst a small selection of natural materials is available, babies and young children do not always get regular opportunities to handle and feel textured materials and interesting objects. This means that children are not fully supported to use their sense of touch, observation and smell to explore resources and their environment.

Children are generally settled and many separate from their carers with little encouragement. Children are reasonably interested in a satisfactory range of toys and activities offered to them from mid morning to the end of the day. This includes water play and containers which help to promote their pouring skills; feeling the texture of cornflakes mixed with pasta, flour and water and singing a number of rhymes and songs at circle time. Although staff supervise these activity sessions their role is mainly to give reassurance and praise. They rarely ask questions during these activities in order to help children to think and express their ideas or to extend their

learning.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is inadequate.

Staff are not always able to manage children's behaviour effectively particularly when working alone. Too few activities are made available to children during the early morning period and consequently this results in children having minor disputes such as snatching toys from each others grasp and hitting out. Although a member of staff intervened children are not given sufficient explanation to help them to understand the consequences of their actions. At other times children's behaviour is generally good, particularly when they are offered activities such as water play, painting and outdoor play that appeals to their interests; when given a sufficient quantity of play materials and the praise and encouragement they receive from staff. Younger children are beginning to play alongside others and older children are learning to wait for their turn to use the outdoor slide with some encouragement from staff. On the whole, the management of children's behaviour is not consistently applied.

The key worker system helps staff get to know children well. They observe, monitor and keep records of children's development and achievements; however information is not yet used to inform activity plans or to extend children's learning. There are currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities on roll. However, there are appropriate systems in place to support children of various abilities. Children come from a variety of backgrounds and are learning to accept differences through the use of books, dolls and dressing up clothes although too few resources reflect positive images of gender and disability.

Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive. There are informal systems in place for staff and parents to share information about children's individual needs, which happens at the beginning and end of the session. Staff complete a day sheet for parents of younger children, which gives information about their child's care routine and general well-being. This ensures continuity of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. This is because the setting is breaching regulations as the required child to staff ratio is not met. Improper contingency arrangements to cover staff absences leave children vulnerable whilst being looked after by one member of staff during the early morning period. Regulations are further breached in that the recruitment and vetting procedures fail to protect children in the setting. Children are cared for by some members of staff who have not been suitably vetted. Staff deployment is ineffective. There are only two staff members qualified to administer first aid and none of these staff are on duty during the early morning period. Management are not fully clear about their roles and responsibilities particularly with regards to ensuring that persons looking after children on the premises is suitable to do so. Children's welfare is not

safeguarded. Overall, the organisation of children's care does not promote their safety, welfare and development.

All mandatory records are in place, however the recording of accidents do not always contain full details and the manager has not considered what steps to take should parents choose not to sign. There are systems in place to support staff and they are generally encouraged to undertake training. However, not all staff have a secure knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework to fully promote the positive outcomes for young children. Overall, children are provided with an adequate range of activities throughout most of the session with the exception of the early morning period when insufficient activities are available to them.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the quality of the provision for care was judged as inadequate. The setting was required to maintain accurate records of the register of attendance, medication and ensure all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection; plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children. To take steps to promote safety in the setting and ensure proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents to babies and younger children and make sure enough staff are qualified in first aid on the premises or on outings at any one time.

The setting has made few improvements. The system for recording children's attendance and medication is accurate and well maintained. Most records relating to day care activities including those for the welfare and management of children, and some staff details are readily available for inspection. However, the procedures for the recruitment and vetting of staff are poor resulting in children's welfare being put at risk. Although there is now two staff members qualified to administer first aid the setting does not always have a minimum of at least one qualified first aider on the premises at any one time. This means that children may not receive appropriate care in the event of an accident. Safety harnesses have been fitted to highchairs and the increase provision of cots help to prevent accidents to babies and young children. However, not all safety issues in the setting have been fully addressed as fire safety equipment has not yet been checked and children can gain unsupervised access into the kitchen. These unsuitable measures potentially put children's safety at risk. Older children are provided with a reasonable range of activities that is mainly appropriate for their development, although the positive outcomes for young children's development and learning needs are not fully promoted.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There has been one complaint made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

A complaint was received in May 2006 and related to National Standard 1:Suitability of person, National Standard 11:Behaviour management, National Standard 13: Child protection and National Standard 14:Documentation. These concerns specifically related to the suitability of staff, inappropriate handling of a child, child

protection procedures not being followed and accidents and attendance records not being accurately maintained. An unannounced visit took place on 24th May 2006. Observations were made, documentation were looked at and issues were raised with the manager and the registered person. As a result of this actions were made in relation to the National Standards 11, 13 and 14. Ofsted received an action reply slip with information showing that the provider had addressed the issues appropriately. Ofsted is now satisfied that the provider meets the National Standards and remains qualified for registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted. The provider has made a record of the above complaint in their complaints book.

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## WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

### The quality and standards of the care

Ofsted is taking **enforcement action** to safeguard the welfare of children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)