



Barkantine Community Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY288508
Inspection date 22 April 2005
Inspector Shama Ahmed

Setting Address Mellish Street, London, E14 8PR

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Registered person Barkantine Community Nursery
Type of inspection Childcare
Type of care 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.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Barkantine Community Nursery is part of a four-storey building with wheel chair access. The two lower floors are occupied solely for childcare purposes with no access from the nursery to the upper two floors.

The Nursery consists of the following:

Ground floor-reception room, dayroom, 1 baby room 0-2 yr olds, cot/sleep area, bathroom-nappy changing area, sluice, cleaners storeroom, pushchair storage, milk room, kitchen, kitchen store, general office, manager's office, staff room, w/c adult

plus disabled w/c.

First floor - Toddler room 1 children aged 2-3 years, pre-school room 2 children aged 3-5 years, communal play area (indoor), out door play area, children's toilets/wash room, storage cupboard.

The provision is located in Mellish Street in the Isle of Dogs. Local shops and parks are within walking distance.

The Nursery is registered for 52 children and provide full day care for babies and children aged 0 - 5 years. The group will operate Monday - Friday from 8:00 - 18:00 all year round except bank holiday and Christmas period.

The group received support from the local Early years Development Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's meals are prepared off the premises by an outside company and are delivered on to the premises ready to serve. Children enjoy eating their meals and are given sufficient opportunity to develop independence in feeding themselves. They are encouraged to promote hygiene practices but the children are not actively informed of why they are washing/ cleaning their hands.

Under twos are given ample opportunity to eat independently and develop their physical control. They seem happy and willing to try their food without adult encouragement or supervision.

Meal times are exciting and fun for the children who enjoy being able to feed themselves. They are provided with plenty of food. However, there was no drinking water or juice available during their meal, but apparently given to them after their dessert.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel safe and secure within the premises. Children are provided with adequate space throughout the nursery to play safely with the activities provided to them. The physical environment is welcoming with children's work displayed around the nursery. Furniture, equipment and toys are stored in cupboards but not used to their maximum capacity to create a stimulating environment. However, all resources and furniture are in good condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

Children are encouraged to stay safe by staff. For example, a child was told not to poke her finger towards another child's face as this was dangerous. Children are kept

safe within the physical environment by cautious staff who are vigilant with furniture and other equipment by storing them safely out of the way when children are playing. Children benefit from the knowledge staff gain when they are sent on various training courses throughout the nursery. Children are kept safe and secure as staff are aware of ACPC procedures.

Under twos are discouraged from acting in an unsafe way but this comes across as negative and detrimental to children's self confidence.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Birth to Three Matters training has been undertaken by all staff. Under twos are given the opportunity to explore and investigate through the use of various instruments. Some children are stimulated by staff from time to time, however, other quieter children are left sitting alone for 5 minutes at a time without toys or any interaction with staff. They are not stimulated and are not having their learning stretched or developed because staff are unsure of how Birth to Three Matters should be implemented. Children take part in adult led activities only and are not given the opportunity to choose toys to play with. Group activities such as singing nursery rhymes are focused and the children enjoy taking part.

Older children are given few resources to keep them occupied and achieve very little from the activities set out and are quickly bored. As a result, children's emotional, social and intellectual capabilities are not being developed. Planning is done by a member of staff who communicates it to other staff at the beginning of every week. Other staff have input in to which activities should be set out for the children to take them on to the next stage of learning. However, there was no evidence to this effect.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are given limited opportunity to develop their self assurance and a sense of belonging under Birth to Three Matters. Children are restricted from sound making and exploring. Children are discouraged with negative language from staff.

Older children's relationships with one another are strengthened by some staff who encourage children to respect each other, share and take turns. Children with special needs are not getting the maximum support possible because not all staff are aware of what special needs are. There is a key worker system in place and parents are informed of their child's progression through daily feedback on their child's daily activities. There seems to be an adequate communication system in place between staff and parents.

Children are generally well behaved and enjoy one another's company. Children's behaviour is managed through staff's knowledge of their behaviour management policy.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises are well organised. All legally required documentation is in place. However there are changes being made by new management. these include, improving policies and procedures. All policies are being reviewed and new policies are being introduced.

All staff providing care are suitable to do so. Children are supervised by the required adult/child ratios. children's records, staff records and other documentation required for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained and are up-to-date. All children's registers are up to date and recorded in a coherent and logical manner. Parents are able to access their child's records upon request. Parents talk to key workers at the end of the day or can phone the provision during the day to speak about any concerns they may have.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- Develop staff knowledge on implementing Birth to three matters.
- Provide a variety to toys and resources for children to be able to choose form independently.

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