



Ackroyd Under 5's Baby Unit

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY291378
Inspection date	01 September 2005
Inspector	Laura Brewer
Setting Address	4 Ackroyd Road, London, SE23 1DL
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Registered person	Ackroyd Under 5s Group
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Ackroyd Under 5's Community Group Baby Unit has been operating since 1984. The group is run by a management committee, which also runs Ackroyd Under 5's Community Group Nursery, which operates from separate premises in the same residential street in Honor Oak. Both groups serve the local community. The Baby Unit, which generally takes children until they are 2 years, operates from a converted house with an outdoor play area.

There are currently 14 children from 6 months to 2 years on roll. Some children attend on a full time basis, whilst others attend part-time. The setting supports

children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week, for 48 weeks per year. Sessions are from 08:00 until 17:45.

Three staff work directly with the children in the baby unit and the manager and deputy oversee both premises. The manager, deputy and majority of staff hold a Level 3 childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a healthy, nutritious diet. They receive snacks such as fruit and vegetables to help them develop healthy eating practices. Staff talk to children about what foods will help them to grow to introduce to them the importance of a healthy diet. Special dietary requirements are complied with. This ensures children remain healthy.

Procedures such as cleaning the nappy changing mat with anti-bacterial spray between changes help sustain satisfactory levels of hygiene although there is a risk of cross-contamination when the same flannel is used for all children to clean their hands before meals.

Staff are aware of their responsibilities with regard to the recording of accidents and medication, however there is not always a member of staff with a first aid qualification on site at all times. This could result in children not receiving the appropriate treatment in an emergency.

Staff are following the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework and the children usually settle well. Children have good relationships with the staff who interact in a gentle and supportive manner, encouraging children to feel happy to go to them for cuddles and reassurance. This develops healthy dependence to support their emotional well-being. They are able to rest and be active according to their needs.

Children enjoy a varied range of energetic physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Staff ensure that all children have regular opportunities to play with a range of equipment, which develops their physical skills and abilities, for example, whilst using the wheeled toys, balls and climbing equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright, clean and well maintained environment. The good organisation of toys and equipment means children can move around safely to independently access available resources from shelves and boxes at child height.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised as good safety precautions are in place, such as safety gates, socket covers and safety surfacing in the outdoor play area.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of behaving in a manner that does not endanger or hurt themselves or others as a result of clear guidance. For example, staff clearly explain to children why they should not bump into others whilst using the wheeled toys.

Children's welfare is protected. The management ensure that procedures are up-to-date and that staff have a full understanding of their responsibilities in relation to child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are generally confident within the setting and have built good relationships with the staff. Children receive lots of cuddles and have secure bonds with their carers, which increases their sense of wellbeing. They benefit from routines, which are consistent with their experiences at home.

Staff know each child well and use effective systems to monitor their individual development in order to plan for next stages of learning. Staff have recently started to use the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework which is improving children's achievements. They enjoy participating in a varied sensorial programme and energetically explore a range of resources which enables them to develop new concepts. For example, they happily investigate a set of boxes of various shapes and experiment with sand.

Children's communication skills are effectively encouraged by staff and they enjoy looking at books, singing and mimicking animal noises together. Their physical development is well promoted within the nursery and staff help them to practice their mobility skills. They play imaginatively using all of their senses and gain good levels of self-esteem and confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the positive partnership staff have developed with parents. This ensures children settle well and their individual needs are met. They experience consistent care due to effective communication systems between parents and staff, such as daily information records. Children build good relationships with staff and are generally happy and secure in their environment. There are good systems in place to support children with special educational needs as staff are committed to working closely with parents and outside professionals.

Children show a sense of belonging and staff talk to them about their experiences with family and friends. Children's self-esteem is fostered when staff praise them and

recognise their achievements, such as when they help to tidy up or complete a task. Staff have realistic expectations of children's behaviour and are skilled at diffusing situations and offering distractions. This enables the children to become familiar with the boundaries and expectations of staff.

There is a strong commitment to working in partnership with parents to enable the individual needs of the child to be met. Staff regularly share information about their child's progress through regular meetings and daily contact records. Parental involvement is actively encouraged and parents are welcomed into the setting to be involved in their children's learning.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by suitably qualified staff due to effective recruitment procedures. Induction training, policies and procedures work well in practice, ensuring the efficient management of the nursery. Staff are competent within their roles and have a good knowledge of child development, which enables them to meet children's individual needs well.

There is a commitment to develop the provision and the management have clear aims for the future. Staff are supported in their work and ongoing training is actively encouraged to ensure that practices continue to be improved and developed.

Parents are kept up-to-date about their child's progress through daily contacts records and regular meetings with staff. The range and quality of activities provided for children ensures they make steady progress. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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):

- minimise the risk of cross-contamination by ensuring that effective hand washing facilities are used for children;
- ensure that there is member of staff with a current first aid qualification on site at all times.

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