



Rainbow Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284515
Inspection date	15 November 2006
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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?

Rainbow Nursery was registered in September 2004. The nursery is a privately owned, full day care provision situated in the South Tottenham area of 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. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 18 children aged five months to five years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The nursery employs six staff. Of these five, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and one member of staff is working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health needs are generally met because staff follow appropriate guidelines to provide adequate facilities for hand washing and drying; wearing of gloves for nappy changing, safe disposal of soiled materials and cleaning tables before each change and when providing meals. Despite these appropriate procedures, some consideration should be given to ensuring that those responsible for cooking and preparing meals use protective clothing. Staff do not wear shoes in the middle section of the baby room where mats are laid on the floor for babies' play and comfort; however, babies can access all areas including the perimeter of the room where staff do wear shoes. There are appropriate systems in place for dealing with accidents and ensuring that medication is administered safely to children. All staff have recently attended training and now hold current first aid certificates ensuring that they give appropriate care if there is an accident.

Children benefit from receiving generally healthy and balance meals throughout the day, which takes into consideration their dietary requirements, preferences and parents wishes. They enjoy varied foods that are freshly cooked and include fish stew, pizzas, roast chicken and sausages. Babies are bottle fed and provided with food that is appropriate for their stage of development. Children are offered drinks and fresh drinking water only at meals times. On occasion they ask for drinks at other times however, some staff does not always respond to their requests.

Children look forward to going outdoors and they enjoy peddling tricycles, running around and having opportunities to climb up and slide down play apparatus. Staff ensures that all children have opportunities to use the outdoor play area throughout the day, which helps to promote their physical development. Babies and young children rest and sleep according to their needs. Babies have a sufficient range of equipment that helps to develop their large motor skills and they are beginning to handle a range of small equipment such as pop up toys, wooden spoons and household objects.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure environment. There are suitable procedures to ensure unwanted persons do not gain access; visitors are monitored when on the premises and there are suitable procedures for the safe arrival and departure of children. Children have sufficient space to work, rest and play. The developing use of the outdoor play area helps to promote children's learning in wider areas of play. For example, children have access to water and sand play, role-play equipment, drawing materials and they see numbers marked on the ground. Children are generally kept safe because staff have a satisfactory understanding of safety issues and has now taken reasonable steps to minimise potential hazards. For example, fire safety equipment is maintained to working order, children and staff regularly practise emergency evacuations, children's access into the kitchen is restricted and the outdoor play area is checked before use. However, hot drinks that are left on the radiator ledge are accessible to children.

Children use a sufficient range of developmentally appropriate toys, furniture and equipment that conforms to safety standards and are in generally good condition. Although some books are not well maintained and are in need of repair. Children are able to access toys safely and independently through a number of storage units located around the room at their level. Babies are provided with an adequate range of furniture that is appropriate for their stage of development, safety and comfort. Sleeping babies and children are closely monitored at all times. Staff recently attended training and all of them now have a generally good understanding of child protection issues and know how to proceed if they have concerns about a child in their care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally settled, and many are happy to attend as they readily approach a simple range of table top activities on their arrival. The newest and younger members of the group receive appropriate care and attention to help them to become familiar with the routines of the day through gentle reminders and assistance. Children have access to a variety of activities as these are continually set out on vacant table tops and at floor level throughout the morning. This helps to sustain children's interests and at these times they begin to develop their concentration span during activities that they enjoy play with. This includes small world equipment such as animal farm and role-play equipment that consists of play foods, real bottles and containers for hair dressing and items of dressing up clothes.

Children's language and communication skills are generally promoted as staff read stories and try to ask appropriate questions to encourage them to respond and describe what they see. However, not enough attention is paid to the learning needs of children of different ages as some lose interest during a half hour story time session. Children access a reasonable range of writing materials and books are available. However, the book area is not well used. Children's imaginative and creative skills are encouraged through activities such as play-dough, cold cooked pasta, painting, role-play and dressing up. Children are developing counting skills through practical situations and they are learning to recognise numbers. For example, children are encouraged to count the numbers of plates they need at lunch time and they see numerals outdoors in the bays for parking tricycles.

Babies and young children receive appropriate care. Staff obtains necessary details from parents about each child's care routine and ensures that their needs are met as these are followed on a daily basis. Staff are beginning to use the Birth to Three Matters framework to support children's development. Activity plans help to guide them in providing a suitable range of experiences that is mostly appropriate for children's stage of development. For example, babies have access to a range of every day objects such as synthetic sponge, cones, materials and twig balls. They are beginning to explore different sounds as they listen to animal sounds and jingles from activity sets; and play with wooden spoons and pots. Babies have opportunities to experience playing in water and they are appropriately supported and closely supervised at these times.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are respected and valued as individuals because staff follow their daily routines as discussed with parents. They come from a variety of backgrounds and their individual needs are known. An appropriate range of anti-discriminatory resources such as dolls, books, puzzles and posters are available to children and reflect positive images of race, culture and gender. Staff helps children to become aware of similarities and differences through simple discussion about the celebrations and this is further reinforced as they work and play together. There are appropriate systems in place to support children who have learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children's behaviour is generally good and they are responsive to staff's consistent approach that includes simple explanation and encouragement. Children are learning about the ground rules in the setting and some of them are able to announce a few of the rules to their peers during group discussion. Older children are becoming confident and at times approach staff and adults to make their needs be known. For example, some children ask for drinks and to play with favourite items of dressing up clothes such as police hats.

Staff are developing relationships with parents as they greet them on arrival; spend time talking to them about their child's general well-being and sharing and exchanging information about babies' care routines. Most policies and procedures are available to parents through the availability of a handbook. However, parents are not fully informed about the procedures to follow if they have a complaint. In addition to this, the complaints policy to guide staff is not yet in line with current legislation.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children work and play in a secure environment. The organisation of the room provides sufficient space for play and enable children to have independent access to toys. The deployment of staff ensures that children are supervised at all times and receive appropriate care throughout the day. Children's health is generally promoted and although hygiene procedures is to a satisfactory level, more emphasis needs to be given to further improving procedures in the baby room and kitchen, and developing food safety. Children are generally kept safe through satisfactory measures to promote fire safety, and carrying out basic risk assessments in most areas. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

There are now adequate procedures for recruiting staff. However, not all of the documentation to fully confirm staff suitability is made available at this time. Training is encouraged and as a result of this staff are developing their knowledge of care. Written procedures are available to guide staff in their knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and how to promote learning outcomes for children. Consequently children are now offered an adequate range of activities that are suitable for their stage of development. However, the written procedure for complaint is not fully updated. All documents required for the safe and management of the setting is in place. This contributes to the welfare of children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was judged as inadequate and was asked to; maintain minimum staffing ratios, ensure suitable contingency arrangements are in place to cover staff absences, ensure children do not have access to the kitchen area unless supervised and take positive steps to promote hygiene particularly in relation to nappy changing and hand drying facilities. To keep accurate records of accidents, signed by parents and develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour.

The setting now has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that children receive appropriate care and are supervised at all times through re-deploying other suitable staff members, drawing from a pool of workers and making sure that there are sufficient staff on the premises. Children cannot gain access into the kitchen area unsupervised because a secure gate is now in place. Steps have been taken to maintain fire safety equipment and smoke alarms and fire exit signs have been upgraded. Children's health is generally promoted as appropriate nappy changing facilities are now provided, disposable gloves are worn and soiled materials are safely disposed. Children have access to hand drying facilities and are developing personal independence. However, more consideration needs to be given to further promoting hygiene in the baby room and kitchen area to minimise the risk of cross infection to children. Staff are now consistent in their approach to managing children's behaviour and use positive strategies to help children to understand right from wrong. As a result of this, children generally behave well. The system for keeping records is now detailed and parents are encouraged to sign to confirm notification. Overall, these measures taken have improved the quality of care for children, which is now of a satisfactory standard.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 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):

- further improve hygiene procedures particularly in the baby room and for those responsible for cooking and preparing meals, and develop procedures for safe food storage
- make drinking water available to children at all times
- minimise the risk of potential hazards especially in relation to hot drinks in the rooms
- make parents become aware of the procedures to follow if they have a complaint and ensure that the complaints policy is updated to be in line with current legislation
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk