

Waltham Forest Asian Mothers Group

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY227193
Inspection date	09 August 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool
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Registered person	W/F Asian Mothers Group
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Waltham Forest Asian Mothers group opened in 2002. The holiday play scheme and out of school provision is run by a management committee. It operates from five rooms in a commercial building in the Walthamstow area within the London borough of Waltham Forest. A maximum of eight children may attend at any one time. The play scheme is open from 10.00 to 15.00 on Mondays to Thursdays during the Easter and summer holidays and the Ramadan period. The group also opens on Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00 to 15.00 all year round.

There are currently 10 children from five to under eight years on roll. They attend for a variety of sessions. Children age over eight years also attend. The setting supports children with learning difficulties and physical disabilities and also children who speak English as an additional language.

The group employs nine members of staff. Over half the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives support from the Social Services.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is generally promoted. This is because staff follow a daily schedule that includes cleaning table tops and work surfaces before use, sweeping the floor at the beginning and end of the day and washing the toys on a regular basis. Children are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands at routines such as before meals and after using the toilet. Children receive appropriate care in the event of sustaining minor injuries because most staff hold valid first aid certificates and there is a reasonable quantity of first aid equipment to treat cuts and bruises. There are informal procedures in place for dealing with sick children. Appropriate systems are in place for recording accidents although some details are missing and there is no system in place to confirm parent's notification.

Children's dietary requirements are appropriately met as staff gather relevant information about children's specific diet requirements, likes and dislikes from parents. Staff consider children's various needs when providing drinks and occasional snacks. Fresh drinking water is readily available to children each day, preventing dehydration and promoting their health. There are regular opportunities for children to have access to fresh air and participate in physical exercise through regular trips to the park and outings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in an environment where space is used to its full potential in order to meet the needs of children. For example, some of the play rooms on the first floor are used for relaxation, rest and quiet activities. Overall, the premises are suitably maintained as fire extinguishers and smoke alarms are checked to the recommended frequency. However, children are not fully protected from potential hazards in the setting. This is because the fire exit route through the side lean-to area is obstructed with stacking tables, a propped up ladder, an electrical fan and cardboard boxes. In addition to this, children have access to the hot water boiler and also uncovered electrical sockets in all rooms. This means that they are not protected from equipment falling on them or getting an electrical shock.

Visitors' access into the building is not monitored in order to ensure that children are kept fully secure when on the premises. Children are not encouraged to practise emergency evacuation procedures as staff do not provide them with these opportunities and most fire action notices do not give clear indication about where to assemble when evacuating the building. This means that parents and others will not be fully alerted to the fire exit route in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Children's welfare is generally promoted as staff know the signs and symptoms of abuse and they have a reasonable understanding of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child in their care. Children have access to an adequate quantity of toys that are mainly in reasonable condition; however, there is an insufficient range of toys and equipment that reflect positive images of diversity.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

All children arrive together as they are brought into the setting by a mini bus. They are generally happy when they arrive and some children readily approach the toys and activities that are set out for them each day. The high staff ratio ensures that all children receive individual time and attention. Staff acknowledge children's different needs; they interact appropriately and are supportive during routine care and play. This approach helps to develop children's confidence and self esteem. Children have some opportunities to develop their creative skills as they are provided with drawing materials and painting activities. Children's communication and language skills are generally promoted as staff listen carefully to children's comments and speak clearly to them. Some children uses gestures and facial expressions to make requests and communicate their needs and staff are responsive.

Children benefit from going out on regular trips to places of interest. For example, they have discovered different types of ball games, such as bowling and cricket. Children have experienced walking along the side of the River Thames to closely observe the river and boats. Visits to the local farm enable children to find out about their environment and living creatures as they are able to touch some of the animals.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

All children are welcomed into the setting and encouraged to participate in activities that are on offer. Children come from different backgrounds. However, they are not provided with toys and equipment that reflect positive images of race, gender and disability in order that they develop a good self-image and positive attitudes towards diversity. Furthermore, there are too few opportunities for children to learn about the community they live in and the wider world. Children are generally well behaved as they respond to staff's consistent approach to managing their behaviour and the praise and encouragement given.

Children's individual needs are generally well met because staff ensure that relevant information relating to their health, medical, dietary and care needs is obtained from parents prior to admission. As a result of this, children receive a consistent care routine. It is not confirmed how parents are made aware of the operational planning of the setting as general information about the setting's expectations and procedures were not available on the day of the inspection. Staff respect children's individuality and acknowledge their different age and abilities. Consequently staff equally promote independence and provide assistance and support to children who are of various abilities.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children's safety is compromised because staff have insufficient knowledge of safety issues and do not take appropriate steps to ensure proper precautions are taken to reduce the risks of potential hazards and prevent accidents to children. Also, access to the setting is not monitored as no records are kept of visitors in order to ensure that children receive maximum security when on the premises. Children's health is appropriately met through daily hygiene routines and the appropriate care they receive when sustaining minor injuries. Children are provided with an adequate range of toys and activities and they benefit from regular trips to

places of interests. High staff ratios ensure that children are appropriately supervised and given equal time and attention.

The quality of care for children is weak because the manager lacks knowledge of the National Standards, particularly in relation to safety, anti-discriminatory practices and documentation. For example, anti-discriminatory resources and activities are lacking; the unavailability of staff records made it impossible to confirm that the necessary checks had been carried out on the suitability of staff to work with children and the register of attendance is not accurately maintained. In addition to this, the senior management team are not clear about their responsibilities for ensuring that the person in charge of the day to day management of the play scheme has relevant qualifications to promote children's care and meet their needs effectively. Overall, the setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was asked to ensure that the person in charge has relevant qualifications; make sure that the attendance record contains arrival and departure times and make available to parents the procedures for complaints. They were also asked to devise an equal opportunities policy and ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practices.

The setting has made little improvement since the last inspection. With the exception of the recommendation for devising an equal opportunity policy, which briefly acknowledges, promotes and respects diversity in child care and recruitment, all other recommendations have not been addressed. Consequently the quality of care for children is insufficient and does not meet with the minimum requirements of the National Standards.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop and implement an action plan that sets out how supervisors will achieve a level 3 qualification

- assess the risks to children in relation to electrical sockets, accessible boiler, visitors on the premises and the emergency evacuation route and take action to minimise these
- provide a suitable range of toys and activities, which includes resources that reflect positive images of diversity
- maintain the daily attendance record to include children's hours of attendance
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities (new staff checks and parents' information) are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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