

Waltham Forest Asian Mothers Group

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY227193
Inspection date	29 July 2008
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool
Setting Address	2a Boundary Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 8JU
Telephone number	020 85200373
E-mail	
Registered person	Waltham Forest Asian Mothers Group Limited
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 four 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 half term, 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 11 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.

There were no children aged under eight years present at the time of the inspection.

The group employs 10 members of staff. The setting receives support from social services and the early years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The manager demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's good health is promoted. She describes how children learn about their personal hygiene through hand washing routines before meals and after using the toilet. There are appropriate arrangements in place to enable children to receive suitable treatment in the event of sustaining minor injuries as all staff hold valid first aid qualifications.

From discussion, the manager demonstrates a sound understanding of healthy eating, including the need to have drinking water accessible at all times. There are suitable storage facilities for the food provided by parents to prevent spoiling. Activity plans and photographs shows that children are regularly taken out on visits to local parks, neighbouring country parks with boat and fishing lakes and occasional trips to the seaside. All of which, contribute to children's physical development and good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children's safety is put at risk. This is because children are not helped to practise fire drills in order to learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely. Records show that the last fire drill was conducted in 1996. Inefficient child protection procedures do not guarantee that children's welfare is safeguarded within the setting. For example, the policy does not include the steps to be taken if an allegation is made against a member of staff.

The manager demonstrates a clear understanding of how to ensure that children are kept secure when on the premises through the use of an intercom system and the monitoring of visitors. A reasonable range of play materials and equipment is available, all of which are clean and in good repair. The manager describes the procedures for ensuring that children are safe when out on trips. This includes parental consent, risk assessments, essential toiletries and children's contact details. However, not all documentation to confirm the suitability of the driver and vehicle is available for inspection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The manager explains how children are helped to settle and gain confidence through staff's caring approach and the supportive partnership with parents. Suitable arrangements are in place to collect and drop off children from and to their home, which includes staff escorting children on their journey. The manager talks about planning activities and visits with staff, taking account of children's individual needs and different abilities. This means that staff are able to adapt activities to ensure that all children are included.

The manager talks about encouraging children's communication and language skills through simple discussions at group times, story tapes, sign language and talking to some children in their home language. She explains how children are supported to learn about the features of their local environment through visits to the allotment to plant and observe the growth of sunflowers. Activity plans and photographs show that children are able to take part in activities that aim to help them experiment with paint and arts and crafts.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The manager describes how children's individual needs are well known as staff gather relevant information from parents prior to children's admission. She explains that information is shared with parents through the use of progress reports that are completed and sent home each day. This helps to promote children's general wellbeing and continuity of care. Parents are provided with useful information about the setting, such as, the policies and procedures for equal opportunities, behaviour management, special educational needs and complaints. Although the complaints policy is up to date, it does not include the contact details for Ofsted.

The manager talks about how all children are actively encouraged to participate in a range of indoors and outdoor activities. This ensures that every child has an equal chance to play and learn. The manager explains that a range of toys and activities that reflect positive images of diversity is now accessible to children. There are appropriate systems in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The manager explains that close liaison with parents and outside agencies enables staff to meet children's individual needs. The manager shows a sound knowledge of behaviour management, giving suitable examples of how she would approach different situations.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The provider lacks knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and consequently fails to promote the safety and wellbeing of the children. For example, the overall suitability and qualification of staff does not meet the requirements as none of the staff members hold appropriate qualifications for the care and development of children. Some staff records are not available at the inspection, which means that children are at risk as a result of Ofsted's inability to make appropriate checks of suitability. Children are also put at risk through the provider failing to include in the statement of arrangements the procedures to be followed in the event that allegations are made against a member of staff.

The manager explains that children receive appropriate care because staff treat children as individuals and acknowledge their differences. She describes how the high ratio of staff to children ensures that the children have appropriate supervision indoors and when out on trips. The manager is fairly new in post and is keen to develop her knowledge of childcare and education; however she has limited knowledge of some areas of the National Standards. For example, whilst children's health is promoted and sufficient activities are provided to support their learning and development, the responsibilities for practising emergency evacuation is neglected. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the setting was judged as inadequate and four actions were raised. The setting was asked to develop an action plan that sets out how the supervisor will achieve a level 3 qualification; ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available and to maintain the daily attendance register. The setting was also asked to assess the risks to children and minimise these and provide a suitable range of toys and activities that include positive images of diversity.

The setting has appropriately addressed some of the actions. Every child is accounted for when on the premises and out on trips because the daily register is accurately maintained with all required details. The action plan that sets out how a level 3 qualification will be achieved is not available at the inspection; however, the manager is committed to developing her knowledge in childcare and education and has made contact with the local authority. The setting is continuing to develop the range of anti-discriminatory activities and resources for children. Whilst regular risk assessments are carried out daily, the process is not effective in promoting children's safety as there is no evidence that fire drills have been conducted since the opening of the setting. The provider has still not ensured that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible and available for inspection. This also impacts on children's safety. Overall, the provider has made limited progress in improving the quality of the provision.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare
- conduct fire drills, taking account of the fire safety officer's recommendation as to the frequency of drills and evacuation procedures
- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- make sure that all records relating to day care activities 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