

Alert Kids Day Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY282548
Inspection date	21 May 2008
Inspector	Julia Louise Crowley
Setting Address	806 High Road Leyton, London, E10 6AE
Telephone number	0208 558 8503
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Registered person	Alert Group Ltd
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Alert Kids Day Nursery is run by Alert Group Limited. It opened in 2004 and operates from six rooms in a purpose built building. The premises are situated to the back of the Children's Information Service office in the London borough of Waltham Forest. A maximum of 76 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00, all year round. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are 73 children aged from three months to under five years on roll. Of these, 18 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local area and neighbouring boroughs, as most of their parents travel to work within the local community.

The nursery employs 18 staff. Of these, 12 staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. There are two staff who working towards a qualification. The setting is currently participating in a quality assurance scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children follow adequate hygiene routines that protect them from cross-infection and help maintain their good health. They know that they need to wash their hands before their snacks. For example, children gather outside the toilet and wait their turn to use the bathroom.

The children's health is further promoted as a range of sufficiently thought out policies relating to health and hygiene are adequately implemented by all practitioners. This contributes to the children receiving appropriate care in the event of a serious accident or illness. For example, parents give prior written consent to administer medication and for emergency treatment if required. There are sufficient practitioners that hold a current first aid certificate and accidents are appropriately recorded and the details shared with parents. However, the provider and practitioners are unaware of the responsibility to notify Ofsted in the event that two or more children experience food poisoning. Consequently, children health is compromised.

Children have adequate opportunities to develop their physical skills indoors and out. They have reasonable access to the secure outdoor play area. However, children's experience is limited outdoors, as the environment is uninspiring. For example, children choose from a limited and tired range of out door play equipment. The ground covering is worn and does not present adequate opportunities for children to experiment with different textures and experiences. There is insufficient shade available to children in hot weather, therefore, children's welfare is not fully protected. Indoors, there is a soft play area designated to provide the children with adequate opportunities to practise their physical skills and explore how their bodies work, either by climbing, bouncing or balancing. Older children effectively negotiate the space and receive adequate support from practitioners.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. Organised themes of 'Healthy Eating' and general discussion at the meal table support children's understanding of a good diet. For example, children enthusiastically eat their curry and rice and talk about the vegetables that they can see. They help themselves to drinking water throughout the day. Younger children and babies have ample opportunities to drink as practitioners are aware of their fluid intake, which is recorded for parent's information. The nursery takes adequate account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide sufficiently nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to children and meet their dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Activities and resources are set out at child level; children can access toys safely and make independent choices. They select from a range of mostly adequate resources, however, some are worn and poorly presented. Books are placed in large wooden boxes, they are difficult for children to access and some are ripped with pages missing. Consequently, children safety is compromised as resources are sometimes incomplete, dirty or broken.

Children are able to explore and play safely in the spacious setting because practitioners are vigilant and effectively deployed. However, there is no natural light on the ground floor and the current electric lights do not effectively assist children in their play and daily activities. Adequate risk assessments ensure that potential hazards are identified and addressed effectively.

Clear evacuation procedures are displayed and fire drills are carried out on a regular basis, consequently, children know how to stay safe in the event of an evacuation.

Practitioners show good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, which helps them protect children from harm and neglect. They are clear about appropriate procedures to follow if they have concerns regarding a child's welfare. Appropriate policies and procedures are in place and easily accessible.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and generally confident in the nursery and settle quickly into familiar routines. They form good relationships with practitioners, specifically in the babies and toddler rooms. Practitioners spend time settling new children and demonstrate an expertise in supporting them. For example, practitioners ensure babies are comfortable by providing the correct equipment and surrounding them with appropriate toys. They chatter and cuddle the children appropriately.

Children are confident in making choices and concentrate for adequate periods of time at their chosen activities, showing interest and a desire to learn. Children as young as 18 months explore a sufficient learning environment. They enjoy looking at books, exploring musical instruments, painting and chalking, choosing tools to work with play dough, and hammering pegs. Some practitioners support their explorations and encourage conversation, which develops language and communication skills. They keep sufficient records of children's achievements and plan activities to mostly increase the children's progress.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children are making satisfactory progress because practitioners have sound knowledge of the Foundation Stage. Practitioners record activities under each area of learning and an effective system of assessment is used to record children's developmental progress. These assessments are used to adequately plan the next steps for children. Practitioners do interact with children, but their use of closed questioning means that children's communication skills and ideas are not always extended in their play. The inconsistent evaluation of the provision means that managers and practitioners are unable to recognise where they are successful and where aspects need improvement.

Children show a growing sense of belonging as they greet each other and practitioners on arrival. They are interested and eager to learn. Children are friendly and show concern and care for others.

Children are generally engaged when they play at the water tray and when they select activities. However, practitioners offer limited interaction and do not extend the children's language for thinking. Children are mostly confident to speak in groups and concentrate and listen to stories. They can count confidently and they recognise different shapes. For example, children select magnetic objects on the carpet and shout out the colour and shape. Children rarely select books and look at them independently. There is insufficient priority given to planning for this area of learning. This limits the children's opportunity to develop writing for a purpose and in meaningful situations for enjoyment. The use of phonics is limited and children do not effectively link sounds with letters.

Children learn about their own cultural beliefs and those of other people through planned activities. Children use their imagination in play and respond enthusiastically to musical activities. There are sufficient opportunities for children to express their imagination and ideas through painting and art activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds are warmly welcomed into the nursery. They learn about the world through outings and activities that introduce them to other cultures. For example, when they celebrate festivals and cultural events.

Children enjoy respectful relationships with adults and each other. They are beginning to develop confidence and self-esteem. Behaviour is satisfactory. However, practitioners do not always make it clear to children what is expected of them to support their understanding and self-control. Children do learn important social skills such as sharing and taking turns. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents and carers of children who receive nursery education is satisfactory. They are provided with information about the Foundation Stage in the prospectus and there is information displayed within the nursery. They are regularly updated on their children's progress to allow them to be sufficiently involved in their child's learning.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and individual needs are generally well met by the practitioners keeping appropriate information to safeguard children. Attendance records and the continuity of care for each child is fully provided as there is an effective key worker system in place. Children enjoy the security provided by practitioners clear understanding and implementation of the nursery's policies and procedures.

The leadership and management of the setting is satisfactory. Children benefit from the way the rooms are organised into specific learning areas and how staff are deployed within these areas. However, sometimes children's learning is limited by the practitioners lack of expertise in engaging the children and extending their thinking through language and listening to the children.

The manager makes good use of local authority training and advice and practitioners have the opportunity to discuss their work at regular staff meetings. Overall children are mostly confident and enthusiastic. The setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to: ensure children are not able to gain access to soiled materials in the bathroom; risk assess the accessibility of electrical sockets and slip hazards and take steps to reduce these; further promote children's independence at meals times particularly with regards to eating utensils; ensure all parents countersign their child's accident records; and submit a completed DC2 form for the manager at the earliest opportunity. The provider has ensured that all bins in the nursery now have a secure lid attached to them, consequently, children do not have access to soiled materials. Electrical wires and plug sockets

have been organised so that they are secure and do not present as hazards. Mealtimes are well organised and children have appropriate utensils. In addition the manager has now completed a DC2 form and parents sign all accident forms. Consequently, children's safety and welfare is fully protected.

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.

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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):

- ensure Ofsted is notified of any food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises
- ensure that all play equipment and toys are safe and in good condition
- improve the interior lighting within the nursery and improve the outdoor play area to ensure that children have a stimulating and effective environment to play and learn

The quality and standards of the nursery education

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

- encourage children to use language for thinking by asking open ended questions and increase the use of phonics within the setting

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