



Rainbow Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284515
Inspection date	12 January 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 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?

Rainbow Nursery was registered in September 2004. The nursery is a privately owned, full day care provision and is 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. There is no access to an outdoor play area.

There are currently 19 children aged 5 months to 5 years on roll. The nursery

employs 8 staff. Six of the staff, 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 inadequate.

Parents are required to give prior written consent for staff to administer medication to ensure that children receive the correct dosage. However, medication records are incomplete and this puts children's health at risk. One member of staff holds a current first aid certificate. This is insufficient as children may not receive appropriate treatment in the event of an accident, if this staff member is absent. Opportunities for children to develop physical skills are limited as they do not have access to regular outdoor activities and opportunities to develop these skills indoors are not provided. Consequently this compromises children's ability to develop physical skills.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious environment. They are cared for in a reasonably clean environment as the staff ensure that tables are cleaned before meals and any spillages are cleared up to prevent slip hazards. There are procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. Children follow routines such as washing their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet, however the lack of consistent explanation means that children do not always understand the reason or importance of good personal hygiene.

Children benefit from nutritious meals that are cooked on the premises. The children are beginning to understand the importance of healthy eating through discussion and the provision of snacks of fresh seasonal fruit. For example, children talk about eating salad because it is good for you. Lunch time is generally a positive social experience as the staff and children eat together. Children are offered choice and second helpings, however the opportunities to develop their self help and independence skills is limited for example pouring drinks or the provision of adequate cutlery. Staff gather relevant information regarding children's dietary and medical needs. This ensures that individual needs are met, however this information is displayed in the foyer and does not respect confidentiality. The staff follow babies individual routines for eating and sleeping and record this information for parents. This ensures some consistency of care and contributes to their physical well being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a reasonably secure environment as there are procedures in place to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the premises. However, there is no system in place to record visitors. Children are able to move around independently. However risk assessments are not routinely conducted and the staff have a poor understanding in relation to safety issues. Therefore the children's safety is compromised. For example, fire safety equipment is not maintained and children

have access to the kitchen where hazardous cleaning materials are stored. Babies are not always secure in their high chairs and there is only one cot available for younger babies, which is shared. This means that young babies have to sleep on the floor, with mobile toddlers moving around in the same space.

There are procedures in place for the arrival and collection of children, however these do not adequately ensure children's safety for example, siblings as young as twelve years old are permitted to take the children home. Registers do not always reflect children's arrival times and rarely their departure times.

Children are generally well protected as the staff have a reasonable knowledge of the physical and emotional signs, which could indicate child protection concerns. There are appropriate procedures and policies in place to record and report any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children under two years have limited opportunities to develop their creative and imaginative play, to make connections and represent their own ideas. Babies access to natural materials is limited. Activity plans are linked to the Birth to Three matters framework however, activities provided do not always reflect planning and as a result the needs of the younger children are not adequately supported.

Children do not have access to a varied and stimulating range of activities or play materials. Children aged two to five years concentrate well considering that resources and activities are limited. Play materials are insufficient in quantity and poorly presented, for example, the role play consisted of two police jackets and the three walls of a home corner. Older children are provided with creative and messy activities, however they are not supported to develop their play for example children are not permitted to take play dough away from the table and into the home corner.

Children listen attentively to stories and are beginning to understand the sequence of events in stories that are familiar to them for example, talking about what happens next in the story of Handa's Surprise. Older children are confident to talk about their experiences at the nursery.

Staff do not actively extend children's learning through discussion and there is limited interaction. Questions are closed and staff do not sufficiently develop or extend children's interests.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with some resources and activities, which help them to develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider community. This includes discussion and celebration of cultural festivals and events. Children are respected and valued as individuals. The setting promotes the inclusion of children with special needs, however, there are currently no children with identified special needs on roll.

Children's behaviour is generally good. This is as a result of the staff having developed positive strategies to manage behaviour, which take into account children's age, level of understanding and maturity however, this is not consistently applied. For example, some children are told "no" and are not given an explanation. The children are supportive of each other and are aware of the need to show concern and respect for the feelings of others.

Partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. The relationships between parents and staff are friendly and supportive this contributes to the children's well being. There are systems in place to allow relevant information to be exchanged between the staff and the parents. The parents of younger children are provided with daily written information about the child's food intake, sleep patterns and activities. There is a complaints procedure available to parents, however this does not explain the process.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The organisation of the provision is ineffective and staff have a poor understanding of safety issues. Consequently children's safety is at risk. Documentation relating to staff qualifications and the nursery's recruitment practice is insufficient, for example, records are unavailable for three recently appointed staff. Policies and procedures are in place, however, these are not consistently applied. For example, registers are not adequately maintained.

Parents are provided with information relating to the services provided and are given daily reports on their child's progress. Children are cared for by suitably qualified staff. The staff also have access to further training. In spite of this the staff do not have a clear understanding of the purpose of observations and how these can be used to help the children's overall development and learning. Consequently opportunities for children to learn and develop are compromised.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there have been two complaints made to Ofsted.

The first complaint was made in August 2005 and related to National Standard 3-Care, Learning and Play, National standard 7-Health and National Standard 12-Working in Partnership with parents.

National Standard 3: Care, learning and play- provision of a curriculum supportive of the Birth to three matters framework; National Standard 7: Health – maintaining

records of all accidents countersigned by parents; National Standard 12: Working in Partnership with Parents – acknowledging their views and concerns particularly in relation to parental permissions for outings. We asked the provider to investigate. The provider reported back: National Standard 3: that all staff had undergone Birth to three matters training; a follow up course is booked for October and there is to be continued support and training for staff in this area; National Standard 7: A fully detailed record of the accident (as it happened on the day), countersigned by the parent was not maintained. National Standard 12: Parental concerns regarding outings were not acknowledged. An action and recommendation were made in relation National Standards 7 and 12. Ofsted is satisfied that by addressing the concerns raised the provider is meeting the National Standards and remains qualified for registration.

The second complaint was made in November 2005 and related to National Standard 3 – Care, Learning and Play, National Standard 7 – Health- hygiene standards, National Standard 2 Organisation- adult:child ratios, National Standard 5 Equipment about the equipment used and National Standard 11 – Behaviour- the behaviour management strategies used by members of staff.

An unannounced visit took place on 21 November 2005. As a result actions were set for National Standard 2, National Standard 3, National Standard 6 and National Standard 7. Ofsted received an action reply slip and information showing that the provider has addressed the issues appropriately.

We are now satisfied that the National Standards are being met and that the provider remains qualified for registration.

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:

- ensure that registers accurately reflect children's arrival and departure times

- plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs.
- take positive steps to promote safety in the setting with particular reference to fires safety, access to the kitchen and the safe arrival and departure of children.
- ensure proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents particularly in relation to babies and younger children.
- ensure that written records are maintained in relation to medication.
- make sure enough staff are qualified in first aid to ensure that at least one member of staff with a current first aid certificate is on the premises or on outings at any one time.
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are kept up to date, 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 *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk