

'Children must be cared for in a safe environment'



Norsheila: Be selective when scouting for childcare centres

KUALA LUMPUR: The Association of Registered Childcare Providers Malaysia (PPBM) says nurseries should place greater emphasis on maintaining the required standards of care, so as not to tarnish the reputation the industry.

"It is important that they adhere to the rules and regulations stipulated under the Childcare Centres Act 1984," said its president Norsheila Abdullah.

"The regulations are to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment which aids their

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growth and development."

She said nurseries have a responsibility to ensure that their staff are well-trained and well-versed in the do's and don'ts of operating childcare centres.

"Parents have entrusted the welfare and safety of their children to these establishments, thus the centres must uphold the trust," she said.

PPBM was formed in 1986 and has more than 4,000

registered members nationwide. It conducts foundation courses to train professional childcare providers under the purview of the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry.

Commenting on the death of 2½-month-old Brandon Teh on Feb 9 while in the care of a Petaling Jaya nursery, Norsheila said the tragedy showed the need for well-trained professional childcare providers.

She advised parents to be 'selective' when scouting for childcare centres for their children.

"Most importantly, they should first check whether the centre is registered with the Welfare Department.

"Childcare centres are required by law to display in their premises the certificate of registration issued by the Welfare Department, as well as any other certificates stating their qualifications," she said.

"Parents have a right to ask the centre how many of their staff are trained in childcare," she said.

On March 5, *Sunday Mail* reported that Brandon died while in the care of a nurs-

ery in Petaling Jaya.

His parents had questioned why he he was not given medical attention when he fell ill.

The first-time parents had alleged that the nursery owner assured them that she possessed a nursing background.

They also claimed that the woman said she had a car in case of emergencies.

On the day of the incident, the nursery owner had to borrow a neighbour's car to rush the baby to hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

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