

■ DEATH OF BABY IN PJ NURSERY

Welfare Dept to check on illegal babysitters

KUALA LUMPUR: The death of Brandon Teh at a Petaling Jaya nursery has opened a can of worms on the mushrooming of illegal babysitting centres in the township.

The Selangor Welfare Department is investigating if the nursery where 2½-month-old Brandon died on Feb 9 is registered with the authorities.

"We are checking to see if it has fulfilled the necessary requirements. We will visit the premises soon," said a department spokeswoman.

She said there has been an increase in illegal nurseries, especially in Petaling Jaya.

"Most of the time, these nurseries would begin operations first and apply for permits later.

"We are in the midst of checking these premises."

To apply for a permit, a nursery has to obtain permission from the local council, the Health Department, and the Fire and Rescue Services Department.

By NAJMUDDIN NAJIB

"After these three authorities have inspected the premises and given their written approval, the nursery has to present these documents to the Welfare Department," she said.

"The department will issue a certification of registration letter, which has to be renewed annually."

The department urges all unregistered nurseries to abide by the law and get the required certification.

"Those who have either not registered or have not renewed their permits should do so as soon as possible. We are giving them the opportunity to come forward first before we take action."

On March 5, *The Sunday Mail* reported that Brandon died while in the care of a nursery in Petaling Jaya.

His parents, Vincent Teh and



TRAGIC:
The Sunday Mail report on the death of baby Brandon Teh on March 5

Rowena Yong, questioned why 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.

The couple 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 the hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

His parents have since lodged a police report on the incident.