



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY298070
Inspection date	14 September 2006
Inspector	Deborah Ann Benn
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and children aged five and 11 years. They live in a house in a residential area of Chadwell Heath within the London borough of Redbridge. The through lounge is the main area used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The home is within easy walking distance of the local park and community resources.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under the age of eight years. She is currently minding one three year old child full time.

The childminder is a qualified nursery nurse and a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. The use of wooden flooring which is regularly mopped, in the main area used for children to play, means that allergens are kept to a minimum. Good consideration is given to providing for children's individual medical needs. The childminder has clear written information regarding children's dietary and medical needs completed by parents; including specific detail regarding the administration of medication. She has also been provided with clear information and guidance from parents and ensures she always has necessary equipment to hand, including on outings. This supports children's well being and ensures that the correct action is taken in an emergency. Appropriate routines and expectations, such as children washing their hands after using the toilet, before eating or after a visit to the park help children to develop good habits which promote their health.

Children are provided with substantial and nutritious meals and snacks which promote healthy eating and encourage them to make choices. Children have access to drinks throughout the day. Children's individual dietary needs are very well provided for, the childminder works closely with parents to provide appropriately with a clear understanding of the child's individual needs. For example, the childminder's own children do not have food that may contain anything the minded child is allergic to whilst she is present, to ensure the environment fully supports the child's health.

Children's physical development is well supported. Children have daily opportunity to take part in activities such as climbing through the play tunnel as well as visiting the local park where they run freely, take part in ball games and make use of apparatus.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are appropriately used. There is sufficient space for children to access toys and resources which are laid out in an inviting way; making the main area used for childminding attractive and welcoming to both children and parents. Children are prevented accessing unsuitable areas because the doors are kept closed, they are accompanied to the toilet and directly supervised at all times. The childminder has risk assessed the premises, is aware of hazards and has taken appropriate steps to protect the child currently attending. The childminder has ensured the safety of the current minded child accessing low level glass; such as ensuring no ball or similar games are played in the garden.

The childminder's use of patient explanation helps children to learn how to keep themselves safe. They understand why they should not climb on furniture and the possible consequences of being hurt if they fall. The use of reins gives children the opportunity to explore freely at the park without the risk of being lost.

Children are satisfactorily protected from the dangers of fire. There is a smoke alarm on all levels of the home and these are tested regularly. Although it has not yet been practised, the

childminder has formulated an escape plan. A fire blanket is available in the kitchen, however this is not readily accessible for use as it is not wall mounted. These oversights risk a delay in the speed at which appropriate action is taken in an emergency.

The childminder's clear understanding of the signs of abuse and her awareness of her role to protect children, help to safeguard their welfare. The childminder is alert to signs and symptoms that cause concern but the lack of accessibility of local procedures and contact numbers presents a risk of children and families not receiving swift and necessary support.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a well planned day in which they have opportunity to be creative, use their imaginations and be both active and quiet. They are happy and confident in the childminder's care. Children demonstrate their security and contentment, singing to themselves whilst playing and making choices as to what activity they want to take part in. The childminder's excellent use of conversation and skilled interaction, supports children's language development and encourages their participation. Children use language confidently and enjoy playing with descriptive and rhyming words such as referring to the 'super duper helter skelter' in the park. Children use their imaginations creatively through art, craft and story telling, well supported by the childminder who encourages their interest and skilfully enables them. Open questioning and appropriate challenges are used to help children think and stimulate them in all areas of learning. For example children are encouraged to count, notice shapes and work out which animal is tallest as part of listening to a story. Activities are well developed and extended to help children to think and follow activities through. For example leaves collected on a walk in the park are used for printing and models made from a junk modelling activity are used to develop a skittle game. Children benefit from the good use made of the local park and pre-school for children to be able take part in a greater range of physical activities and support their social development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children gain confidence and awareness of themselves, responding happily to the positive and affirming encouragement of the childminder. The childminder's clear understanding of the children's individual needs and her patient explanation help them to begin to manage their own needs without feeling discriminated against. Children's behaviour is very good, they respond happily to the childminder's clear and calm manner. Children learn about right and wrong and are starting to understand about responsibilities and sharing. For example, the childminder encourages children to tidy up with her and explains the need to make room for another activity and to put toys away so that they will be available at another time. Children learn about diversity and respect for others through good use of resources and skilled communication as well as different foods and clothes. Good relationships are developed with parents, settling in is worked out together to ensure that both parent and child are appropriately supported to be able to separate happily. Continuity of care for the children is appropriately prioritised. Time is taken daily to ensure that information is shared between the childminder and parent and all necessary

records are countersigned. All required documentation is in place to support a professional relationship, contracts are in place and regularly reviewed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Although the childminder has informed Ofsted, as the regulator, of her change of premises, the certificate does not state her current address and is not displayed. This is a breach of regulation.

Although most documentation, such as the daily register and personal information about the children, is easily accessible, some records are not immediately available. The childminder has completed the required introductory training but the certificate confirming this is not readily to hand and the accident and medication record is stored in the playhouse at the end of the garden. This means there is a risk of a delay in ensuring information is immediately recorded. Although there is no record of the reason for children's absence, the daily register accurately records when children are present, including times of arrival and departure. However it is sometimes prepared in advance and there is a risk of lack of accuracy if not amended. Although there is not yet a system in place, the childminder is aware of her responsibility to keep a clear log of complaints received from parents. The childminder has developed appropriate systems to ensure that she always takes contact numbers and children's information with her on outings.

The childminder thoughtfully plans her time, ensuring that she provides children with a well balanced range of activities over each day and throughout the week. She takes children's individual routines, preferences and needs into account giving them a happy and fulfilled time. Good use of the space available means that children are able to play safely and make their own choices.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets 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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- improve children's safety by further protecting them from the dangers of low level glass, ensuring the fire blanket is readily available for use and practising the fire drill
- obtain local child protection procedures and contact numbers
- improve knowledge and understanding of regulatory responsibilities

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