



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY235058
Inspection date	29 September 2006
Inspector	Philippa Clare Williams
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since March 2003. She lives with her three children aged twelve, ten and eight years. They live in a house situated within walking distance from the local shops in Bounds Green in the London borough of Haringey. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a cat and two rabbits.

The childminder is registered to care for three children under the age of eight years and is currently minding two children under eight years.

The childminder takes children out regularly to the toddler group, parks, and other local facilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because they are cared for in a clean, well maintained home where they learn simple good hygiene practices. For example they are encouraged to wash their hands before eating. Children's health needs are protected with accurate records and by the childminder's current knowledge of first aid.

Children enjoy healthy meals and make some choices from the range of nutritious foods available. Children are beginning to develop a knowledge of a healthy diet through the childminder's encouraging healthy choices and the well balanced weekly menus. For example they talk about eating fruit as it is good for you.

Children's individual care needs are fostered through familiar and relaxed routines. They enjoy a good range of physical activities through regular visits to different parks, a garden centre, indoor adventure groups, and playing in the garden. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs. They also have the opportunity to practise their fine motor skills, for example through using playdough tools and completing puzzles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children experience a warm and welcoming environment where they have a beneficial amount of space to move around freely and play in comfort. Children play mainly in the conservatory and living room which are light, bright and airy. Children use good quality equipment and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. Good organisation of toys and materials at child height enable children to choose independently at all times.

Children are safe in the childminder's care due to her effective risk assessments. She gives high priority to maintaining children's safety both in and outside the home, and encourages children to understand how to keep themselves safe through clear explanations. For example, the childminder discusses the safety issues related to the trampoline with all the children. Suitable emergency evacuation procedures are in place but children's awareness of these is insufficient, as these have not been practised.

Children are very well protected by the childminder's secure knowledge of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and thoroughly enjoy the time they spend in the childminder's care. They spend their time purposefully and have access to interesting and stimulating activities, which provide good levels of challenge, for example they learn to complete puzzles, make play dough shapes and build with blocks. Children's communication skills are fostered and nurtured

as a result of the childminder's responsive approach, good questioning and extending vocabulary. For example, one child enjoys listening and joining in with a rhyming story, and joins in conversations during her play. The childminder introduces the children to concepts of colour, number and shape during activities. For example when playing with a puzzles and playdough she talks about different colours and introduces concepts of little and big, and counts the shapes. Children have regular opportunities to socialise with other children by attending local groups and parks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and given a sense of belonging as the childminder values their likes and dislikes and responds to their individual needs in an positive manner. Continuity of care is promoted as the childminder fosters good relationships with parents. Systems are in place to keep parents informed about their children. Children have some opportunity to learn about differences as books present positive images of diversity, however these resources are limited.

The childminder is aware that some of the children may have special needs and is proactive in ensuring that appropriate action would be taken if such a child is identified.

Children behave well, because the childminder encourages positive behaviour when she praises the children and appreciates their efforts. She takes the time to explain and uses appropriate strategies, taking into account individual levels of understanding.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed and at ease in the childminder's home, which is organised to meet individual needs. Consistent routines and kind and caring support enables children to feel safe and secure in the childminder's care. The childminder divides her time well, ensuring she supports children in their play. This makes children feel valued and cared for.

All required documentation is in place and is used effectively to provide for children's care, welfare and learning. The childminder has a good understanding of the needs of children.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the childminder was required to complete a first course, children's health needs are now protected because the childminder has completed the required first aid training. She was also required to provide resources that reflect positive images of culture, disability and gender, although she has obtained some books, it is recommended that she further expands her resources.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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 good. 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):

- practice evacuation procedures with the children
- expand resources that reflect positive images culture, gender and disability

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