



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY221315
Inspection date	29 June 2006
Inspector	Jane Davenport
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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged 12, eight and two in Woodford Green in the London borough of Redbridge. The whole of the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight at any one time, and is currently minding five children, all of whom attend on a part time basis.

The childminder has a level three diploma in pre-school practice and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and tidy environment and, from an early age, they learn the importance of good personal hygiene through effective daily routines. Hand washing and potty training routines are effective in helping prevent the spread of infection. The childminder patiently reinforces the reasons why good hygiene is important, for example, as she explains to a child, who says his hands are clean and don't need to be washed, that, even though he can't see the dirt, there may be germs on his hands which could make him ill.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Her first aid kit is kept fully stocked and she has a good knowledge of first aid procedures. This means that she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. She records accidents appropriately and parents give prior written consent to administer medication, which ensures that children receive the correct dosage according to their needs.

The childminder gathers all relevant information regarding diet, which ensures children's individual dietary requirements are met. Menus for snacks are varied, well-balanced and nutritious and healthy options such as fresh fruit and vegetables, cereals and wholemeal bread are included. Food is attractively presented and looks appetising. Children's independence is encouraged and they are beginning to develop their own preferences and make choices for themselves.

Children have plenty of opportunities for healthy exercise in the fresh air as they go for walks and play games in the garden. Their large motor skills are developing well as they negotiate the climbing frame and bars. They are given gentle reminders by the childminder to stay in the shade as much as possible, drink lots of water, wear their sun hats and put on their sun cream to protect themselves from the hot sun.

The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to support children's development, so they gain strength and co-ordination. Young children receive lots of warmth and affection. This supports their emotional well-being and gives them the confidence to explore new experiences.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious, well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. The premises are secure and there are good procedures in place to monitor sleeping children and to ensure children are unable to leave the premises without a suitable adult. Good interaction from the childminder helps develop children's awareness of safety within the setting. She encourages them to use the climbing frame properly and explains the dangers of chasing a neighbour's cat. She encourages children to take some responsibility for their own safety, for example, as she asks, "What do you think will happen if you stand on

that chair?" Children also learn about stranger danger, road safety and the importance of using pedestrian crossings when they are out.

Children have easy and safe access to good quality toys and resources, which are stimulating and suitable for their stage of development. The childminder is vigilant in making sure that items with small parts, which could cause choking, are not accessible to young children.

There are regular risk assessments both indoors and out, which enable the childminder to identify and quickly address potential hazards. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures including a fire blanket, socket covers, window locks and smoke alarms. The childminder has developed a written emergency plan, which effectively outlines how to evacuate the premises in the case of an emergency.

Effective child protection procedures promote and safeguard children's welfare within the setting. The childminder has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home. They enjoy a warm interaction with the childminder and have the opportunity to socialise with other children. They are well motivated and concentrate well at chosen activities.

Young children explore and experiment through a range of activities that are stimulating, easily accessible and appropriate for their stage of development. The childminder's planning is excellent and ensures variety for the children. Simple weekly themes and well-selected resources play an effective part in helping children make sense of the world. For example, whilst looking at a book about wild animals, a four year old minded child says, "The elephant is the largest animal in the world, isn't it?"

Young children's language is becoming extremely well-developed. For example, at the butterfly painting activity, a three year old minded child remarks that when they fold their picture in half and press, they will have made "a symmetrical pattern." This is supported by the childminder speaking to children, listening and acknowledging what they are saying, narrating activities and encouraging them to say new words. Open ended questions encourage the children to think for themselves and solve problems. They enjoy books and listen avidly to stories. At story time they are able to select their favourite books, such as "Number one, tickle your tum", which makes them laugh out loud.

Children's learning is extended very effectively at routine times of the day. For example, at snack time, they count as they take two orange segments, two slices of pear, two apples and four grapes. The mathematical concept of simple addition is introduced as the childminder asks a child, "You have three grapes, so how many more do you need to make four?" Colour recognition is also extended as they discuss what colour cups they each have.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged well through activities such as art and craft, painting, sand play, cookery, listening to and playing music and dressing up.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equalities issues. Children are allowed to be themselves, their interests are encouraged and they are respected and valued as individuals. She endorses respect and consideration for others and answers children's questions honestly and positively. Children have access to some resources and activities, which help them to develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider community.

There are good systems in place to support children who have learning difficulties or disabilities. The childminder is able to adapt activities for children with these needs, so they can experience a wide range of stimulating activities appropriate for their level of ability. Close liaison with parents and outside agencies ensures all children's needs are well planned for and met.

Children's behaviour is generally good; this is as a result of the childminder developing consistent methods for managing behaviour, which takes into account their age, level of understanding and maturity. Good behaviour is positively reinforced by means of praise and affirmation.

Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive and parents are happy with the care provided. They are made to feel welcome in the childminder's home and are given daily feedback about their child's day. This helps to provide children with consistent care between home and the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children feel settled within the well organised environment, where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure. They are confident to make demands on the childminder, in the knowledge that their requests will be appropriately met.

Record keeping is good. Registers are up to date and contain children's hours of attendance. Information kept about children is relevant and helps promote their welfare; regular informal discussions with parents and written feedback ensure continuity of care for the children. Comprehensive systems are in place to keep children safe and enable them to make progress.

The childminder is committed to attending further childcare and development courses. This will help her to reflect, monitor and improve the current good quality of care and education offered to children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to obtain written consent for emergency medical treatment from parents. She was also asked to ensure that the contents of her first aid

box complied with health and safety regulations. Both of these recommendations have been complied with, which has had a positive impact on children's health and safety at the setting.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- continue to develop and build upon current good practice.

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