



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334317
Inspection date	06 November 2006
Inspector	Theresa May
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 was registered in 2006. She lives in the Higham Hill area of the London borough of Waltham Forest with her two children aged five and three years old. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom/toilet are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have goldfish for pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding her nephew and two children under eight on a full time basis. The childminder walks to the local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care through their daily routine. The childminder has adequate hygiene routines when changing and disposing of nappies. She encourages children to wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet which is effective in helping to prevent the spread of infection.

The childminder has a fully equipped first aid box to be able to care for children if they have an accident, however; she has not obtained a first aid certificate. She is aware of how to record accidents and medication appropriately but has not obtained consent to seek emergency advice or treatment to be able to act quickly in the case of an emergency.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They enjoy a range of healthy meals and snacks which encourages them to develop healthy eating practices. Food which is provided by parents is appropriately stored and prepared for the children. The childminder follows the children's individual feeding routine, respecting the wishes of parents.

Children participate in regular physical activities that keep them healthy, for example, walking to school, visiting the park and playing in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in an adequately organised environment. They mainly use the downstairs of the childminder's home for rest and play and the bathroom facilities are upstairs. Space has been organised for the children to move safely between rooms. In the living room they are able to choose toys from the selection the childminder offers. Children play at the kitchen table for messy activities.

The toys provided are appropriate for the age and development for older children. Toys and activities are of suitable design and condition; they are maintained and conform to safety standards. The childminder checks the toys over for the safety of the children, ensuring there are no sharp objects and broken toys are discarded.

Children are kept safe as the childminder has put measures in place to minimise the majority of risks in her home, such as installing smoke alarms and a stair gate. However, her fire blanket is not appropriately sited, there are no locks on the low level cupboards in the kitchen and permission has not been obtained from parents to transport their children in vehicles.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues and the procedures to follow should she have a concern. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children appear settled and have a warm relationship with the childminder. She sits and snuggles with them and is able to read their signals when they are hungry, tired or need changing which supports their emotional well being.

Children have access to a range of toys and resources that promote their learning and development. Children can access the toys and play with the puzzles and games which hold their interest. They enjoy snuggling in close with the childminder while they sit on the settee and watch television. However, there are few resources for young babies.

Individual daily diaries provide information for parents about nappy changes, rest times, activities and what their child has eaten during the day. This ensures continuity of care the children receive, between the childminder's house and at home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder treats children as individuals and works with parents to ensure their needs are met. However, children have few opportunities to access resources which reflect positive images of race, gender and disability which limits their knowledge and understanding of the wider community.

Children generally behave well. This is as a result of the childminder using positive methods for managing behaviour. Methods such as distraction, explaining the consequence of their actions and reminding them of the rules take into account their age and development. Good behaviour is positively reinforced by means of praise, encouragement and reward systems.

The childminder has a friendly and supportive relationship with parents. Parents are given a copy of the portfolio of the childminder's policies and procedures before the children settle. The childminder regularly shares information with parents about the children's general welfare, verbally and through a daily diary, which ensures continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She has knowledge of first aid and what to do in the event of an accident but has yet to obtain a first aid certificate.

The childminder organises the space and resources adequately. Children play in the whole of the downstairs of the house, they can move from room to room safely. They can rest or sleep in the front room and can pick and choose from the available toys here or the kitchen diner which promotes their independence.

Record keeping is satisfactory. Registers are kept up to date but the record of children's arrival and departure times have not always been accurate. Information is obtained from parents and retained to promote the care and welfare of the children. However, there are some consent forms which have not been obtained from parents.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- obtain a first aid certificate
- ensure the safety measures which have been identified are put in to place
- ensure the attendance record is maintained and consent from parents is obtained
- provide toys and play materials to meet young children's developmental needs as well as resources which promote equal opportunities

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