



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY242481
Inspection date	22 February 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool
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 2003. She lives with her four adult children in the Woodford Green area within the London borough of Redbridge. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five all day, and three children over five before and after school. The childminder regularly works with an assistant. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She 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 tidy home. Their health is protected because the childminder has a secure knowledge of the procedures to prevent the spread of infection as seen in her practice. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet; gloves and nappy changing facilities are available and soiled materials are hygienically disposed. Children's health and medical needs are generally known, although not all significant details are obtained from parents in order to ensure that children's health needs are fully met. The childminder maintains a current first aid certificate ensuring that her knowledge is up to date in the event of an accident and there are fully stocked first aid boxes at hand.

Children benefit from balanced and nutritious meals that meet with their individual dietary requirement. They are offered a varied range of freshly cooked foods that include fresh vegetables, rice and pasta dishes with sauces. Young children are developing independence at meal times through being provided with appropriate eating utensils. Fresh drinking water is offered to children throughout the day. This ensures that they do not get thirsty or dehydrated. Children regularly play in the garden and a varied range of outdoor play equipment gives children opportunities to develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a warm and welcoming environment that attractively displays their art work and promotes early learning through colourful posters of numbers, shapes and alphabet letters. Children have easy and safe access to toys and help themselves when they need to. There is a wide range of toys that are developmentally and age appropriate. Babies and young children are provided with suitable equipment that conforms to safety standards and promotes their independence.

Children are secure and comfortable within their surroundings. They have ample space to work, rest and play. Children's safety is generally promoted as there are appropriate safety measures in place. For example, stair gates restrict children's access to stairs, fire safety equipment is well maintained and car seats are provided for transporting children in the car. However, a household spray is within children's reach and there are a few rusty barbecue equipment and tins accessible in the garden. The childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. This is because children receive lots of warmth and affection. Young children and babies' individual care routines for eating, sleeping

and nappy changing is known and followed by the childminder. Activities are purposeful and planned around the abilities and interests of children and adapted so that babies and young children can be involved. Babies are beginning to communicate their feelings through smiling, babbling and using hand gestures in response to the childminder's comments. Young children's language and communication skills are well promoted through playing games such as hiding objects, encouraging response and repeating words. The childminder spends time talking to children, shows interest in what they are saying and values their comments.

Children enjoy a good range of activities that are appropriate for their stage of development and appeals to their interests. For example, they are provided with opportunities to help with making pancakes, draw and make objects out of play dough. Children receive good support in developing early writing skills through appropriate activities such as using pencils to go over dotted alphabet letters and they have access to a wide range of writing materials and tools. Children benefit from going out on local trips where they learn about the common features of their community and attend toddler groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals. Their different abilities are recognised and the childminder provides a range of activities that are suitable for their age and stage of development. As a result of this, children are gaining confidence and self-assurance. Children are learning to value and appreciate each others differences through discussions about their likes, dislikes, different skin tones and types of hair. In addition to this, they are gaining an understanding of the wider world through stories, pictures and artefacts from countries such as Cuba and Scotland.

Children behave well and benefit from constant praise and encouragement. This is because appropriate strategies, according to their age and level of maturity help them understand right from wrong. Children are encouraged to make choices in their play. This means that children are beginning to take responsibilities for their own learning. The childminder works effectively with parents by maintaining a professional relationship through agreeing expectations, making written procedures available to them and sharing and exchanging information about children's care and development.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from working and playing in a secure, warm and welcoming environment that enables them to settle well, feel reassured and promotes their independence. With the exception of a few potential hazards indoors and outdoors, children are generally kept safe. There are clear procedures in place to promote children's health, although not all required health consents have been obtained. The provision for toys and equipment is varied and of good quality and suitable activities help children to progress in their development. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder has sound knowledge of the National Standards, which results in her providing appropriate care for children. She works with an assistant who helps with the care of children throughout the day. The childminder keeps documentation that is required for the health, safe management and welfare of children. However, the attendance record is not always maintained.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked: to maintain fire safety equipment; make sure dangerous chemicals are inaccessible to children; develop knowledge of child protection issues; and obtain written permission from parents for urgent medical advice or treatment. She was also asked: to ensure resources reflect positive images of disability; share written behaviour policy with parents and provide them with Ofsted contact details; and to inform the regulator of any significant events.

The childminder has taken steps to improve safety by maintaining the smoke alarm. She has developed her knowledge of child protection in order to ensure that children are safeguarded. The provision for anti-discriminatory resources has been developed to include positive images of disability. This helps children learn to accept differences. The childminder makes sure that parents are kept informed about her procedures through an information pack and she is clear about her responsibilities for notification of significant changes. With the exception of one item, most household fluids or dangerous chemicals are inaccessible to children. Although parents are encouraged to give consent for medication, their consent for seeking urgent medical treatment have not been obtained and a recommendation has been made.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking urgent medical treatment and advice

- take steps to make the garden safer and ensure household sprays are inaccessible to children
- maintain up to date written documentation of the daily attendance record.

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