

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY333539
Inspection date	04 July 2007
Inspector	Vivienne Rose
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 2006. She lives with her husband and daughter aged 22 months. They live in Wanstead in the London borough of Redbridge. The downstairs of the house is used for childminding this includes the kitchen, conservatory and small room for sleeping and rest. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local school s to take and collect children. She attends local playgroups, parent/toddler groups and toy libraries with the children. The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the local Childminding Network.

The childminder is registered to work with an assistant.

The family have a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities in the clean and well organised home. Because of the way that the childminders home is organised children access the resources easily to enable them to develop their independence and curiosity. Regular opportunities for the children to access the outdoor space and to visit local facilities for example, parks and playgroups, ensure that the children's physical needs are well met. Children are aware of the daily routines for eating and when they need a drink and are confident and happy to use the toilet independently. Children enjoy their snacks which contain healthy options such as raisins apples and kiwi fruit.

Children's medical and dietary needs are requested to ensure their well-being. The administration of medicines is recorded effectively to ensure their health needs are met. Children eat their lunch together at the table which supports their social skills and development. The exchange of information with parents regarding children's preferences provides continuity of care and alternatives are offered in cooperation with them. There are clear systems to record accidents when they occur. Permission is requested for emergency treatment. However, this procedure is not yet in place for all the children that attend to fully protect their health needs should an emergency occur.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children settle well at the childminders house, which is warm, safe secure and welcoming. Regular fire drills, risks assessments and effective use of gates ensure that children are safely cared for. Children take part in emergency evacuation procedures which helps them to understand the process to be followed. They confidently move around the home observing simple rules of safety for example, picking up toys from the floor and not to climb. Children are encouraged to think about the consequences of their actions when the childminder asks "why shouldn't you stand up on the climbing frame"?. The childminder carries out checks on the toys to make sure that there are no broken parts that could harm a child. There are clear procedures for arrival and departure times to ensure the children's safety.

Children independently select from a variety of accessible and well maintained resources. All the equipment is stored at a low-level to enable them to take part in free-flow play.

The childminder has a child protection policy which safeguards the children in her care. She holds a current first aid certificate and has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms which would give her cause for concern. The childminder does not systematically record all injuries to children which occur outside of the childminding home in order to fully protect their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children benefit from the fact that the childminder has a good knowledge of the 'Birth to three framework' and she incorporates this within her practice with the children. She has good knowledge of the children, their backgrounds and family which helps her to relate to them well. For example, she knows that his Granny has a dog and they discuss the dogs name. This helps

children feel secure and gives them a sense of well-being. All children are given a lot of attention and the childminder's interaction with them is reflective for example, "what do you think will happen" or "what colour would you like"? This encourages the children to think and to develop their understanding. Children enjoy a variety of easily accessible activities which offer them good levels of challenge. Activities include stacking bricks, drawing, playing with sand and planting sunflower seeds in the garden. They enjoy sitting closely, listening to stories and playing with matching games and puzzles to help them to develop their concentration and language skills. The childminder plans her week to ensure that children have good opportunities to attend various facilities such as playgroups as well as time in the home. She records information on children's daily routines and development in small diaries which are shared with parents. Children are able to develop a sense of security in the environment which is flexible and stimulating.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Daily routines are discussed with parents for example, eating patterns and the children's likes and dislikes to ensure continuity of care. Children are confident to move around and to access toys and resources independently and to make requests for what they want. Children are well behaved. The childminder has consistent expectations this helps children to feel secure when simple boundaries are set. For example, taking turns and sharing with each other. They enjoy receiving a sticker if they have been good to promote their achievements and their understanding of right and wrong.

Resources contain a satisfactory variety of positive images of race, culture and disability. As a result children have sufficient opportunities to enable them to begin to understand about different aspects of society.

A good partnership with parents and daily exchange of information both verbally and in diaries about the child's development and routines supports continuity of care. There are good written policies and procedures in place. There is a comprehensive complaints procedure and there have been no complaints. However, the childminder is yet to introduce a method for recording complaints and concerns should they occur.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised child orientated environment. A comprehensive weekly plan and the structure of the day enable children to develop confidence and independence. A daily record of children attendance is maintained and the registration details of the children are well maintained. The childminder always ensures that children are collected by people that she knows. Children benefit from the fact that the childminder is constantly updating her own knowledge through attendance on courses to develop her own skills. These have included safeguarding children and disability awareness.

Most of the required documentation is clear and well maintained. The childminder ensures the security of the details of the children by keeping them safely locked away. However, the required permission for emergency treatment is not maintained on all the children that attend. A method for recording complaints is yet to be developed. The childminder does not record all incidents. 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 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):

- ensure that written parental permission is requested for emergency treatment for all the children that attend
- ensure that any incidents that occur outside of the childminders home are recorded to safeguard the welfare of children

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