

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY341840
Inspection date	07 June 2007
Inspector	Mary Holt
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 23 months in a residential area of Chingford, in the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

The whole of the childminder's house apart from the guest room is used for childminding, there is a fully enclosed garden to the rear for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. The childminder is currently caring for four children aged between three years and eight months old, all children are cared for on a part time basis.

The family has a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and clean environment where their health is promoted well. Good hygiene is promoted with the children by way of encouraging hand washing routines, blowing their nose and disposing of the tissue immediately and using individual hand towels and face cloths as well as their own sheets and blankets for nap time.

Children's health is promoted well, parents are provided with written policies and procedures regarding health and sickness and the implementation of these ensures that the risk of cross infection is minimised. All accidents are dealt with in an appropriate manner and fully recorded. The childminder has completed relevant first aid training as required and maintains a well stocked first aid box.

Children are cared for in an environment that is kept to a high level of cleanliness. Good daily cleaning routines are in place at the end of each day to ensure that this is maintained

Children are offered a wide, varied and well balanced diet. Example menus are displayed on the playroom wall to ensure that parents are kept informed; children are encouraged to eat healthy options, for example fresh fruit, vegetables and pasta dishes that are kept low in fat and salt and prepared in accordance to parents wishes.

The childminder has undertaken food hygiene training to ensure that food is prepared and served in the best possible way.

Children's physical development is promoted well, for example the childminder sits on the floor with the young children and encourages play with the contents of a treasure basket encouraging them to reach out for items. The childminder also sings songs with the children and encourages them to add movements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is warm, clean and comfortable, with ample space available for them to play, rest and eat. Children are mainly cared for on the ground floor of the premises, they have access to the lounge and dining room which is used as the playroom area.

Children are mostly kept safe on the premises, the home is kept secure, fire safety equipment is available and maintained on both floors, a clear written procedure is in place for use in the event of a fire or emergency situation and domestic gas appliances are annually serviced. However, sharp knives are stored in a way that makes them easily accessible to children in the kitchen area.

Children have an appropriate range of resources available to them, they sleep in suitable cots and are kept safe when taken out for walks by using suitable forms of transport, for example double or single buggies, as well as using walking reins and buggy boards.

Children's welfare is supported well by the childminder; she has a sound knowledge and understanding of her role and responsibilities regarding child protection issues. The childminder

has attended child protection training, has a clear written policy and procedure that is available to parents and keeps contact details of the local Safeguarding Coordinator easily to hand.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the care of the childminder and enjoy lots of attention and affection. They are able to access a good range of age appropriate toys and activities. Children are able to make choices and are offered alternatives when they become disinterested.

Children show interest in what they do and become absorbed in playing. They display good levels of concentration as they explore what is inside the treasure basket.

Regular trips out are organised to the local park, toddler group, library and 'mucky pups' activity group.

The childminder has undertaken an introduction to the Birth to three matters framework training and is using this to promote children's learning through planning, recording and evaluation of activities.

The childminder shows sensitivity and understanding of children's needs and preferences to ensure that activities and routines are fulfilling. For example, they have opportunities to be active, rest and eat at times that suit their needs. Gradual settling in periods which are negotiated with parents on an individual basis ensure children feel happy and content before being left.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are cared for by the childminder who works closely with parents to meet their child's individual needs. The childminder has developed close and caring relationships with children to help them to build their self confidence. The childminder is fully aware of children's individual needs and personalities, and ensures they feel equally valued and included in the life of the setting.

Children have the opportunity to learn about other cultures, abilities and lifestyles as they are able to access a variety of good quality resources that reflect diversity such as puzzles, home life equipment, books and dolls.

Children's behaviour is managed in a positive manner. Praise is used effectively for all efforts made and positive behaviour is displayed. The childminder presents as a good role model; she talks to children with warmth and with respect.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and settled in a calm and well-organised environment. They move around safely, with independence and effective supervision. Children's health is promoted to a high standard. Another strength of the childminder's provision is that she has a high regard for developments in early years and successfully follows the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Children can easily access a good range of the toys and resources. Activities are stimulating and well planned; this helps children to develop well in all areas of their learning.

The childminder's vetting procedures ensure that all adults living in her home are suitable to be in the proximity of children. Most areas of the home are safe. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the National Standards for childminding and her responsibility to comply with these to provide good quality childcare.

All the required documentation is efficiently maintained, up-to-date and stored securely. This supports children's welfare. The childminder has developed well written policies and procedures that support her good childcare practice. She keeps detailed records and observations of children's progress, thus ensuring children are fully supported in reaching their potential. She makes good use of support provided through the local childminding network and continues to access training to ensure her knowledge and skills are up-to-date. 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 children do not have access to possible hazardous equipment in the kitchen area (sharp knives in low level draws)

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