

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY321435
Inspection date	20 June 2007
Inspector	Gulnaz Hassan
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 family in Highbury in the London borough of Islington. They live in a second floor flat in a converted house, all areas, except for the kitchen, are available for childminding purposes. The childminder is registered to look after three children under eight years. There are currently two children, under five years on roll. The childminder visits local drop-in groups with minded children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy well balanced, nutritious meals that are based on freshly cooked and prepared ingredients. At snack time children have chopped cucumber and strawberries and at lunch time children enjoy meals, such as home cooked chicken curry, fish, spaghetti and tuna pasta. The childminder encourages children to taste new foods and she frequently offers children different foods to try. The childminder ensures that children's diets are well balanced, for instance when children do not like vegetables the childminder will disguise the vegetables into the meal served so that children do not miss out on valuable nutrients. The childminder is aware that some

children drink very little water so she ensures that beakers of water are within reach and she reminds children to take sips of water throughout the day.

Children's good health is well promoted by the childminder who has high standards of cleanliness and hygiene in the home that help to prevent the risk of infection. For instance there are good procedures in place for the disposal of nappies. Children are learning about good hygiene and cleanliness because the childminder sets a good example. For instance before serving the children their meals she explains to children that she must wash her hands first. Children are also learning to attend to their own hygiene needs, for instance toddlers remind the childminder to give them a tea towel to use as a bib to keep their clothes clean during snack time. The childminder has considered all aspects of care relating to sickness and accidents. She has an emergency action plan in place that will be implemented in the event of accidents or illness to children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy resting and playing in a spacious and clutter free environment that has been adapted to meet their needs, for instance there is plenty of space on the floor for children to stretch out whilst they are playing. Children have access to a good range of play materials that are appropriate to their individual needs and new resources, such as pretend food, are frequently obtained with the preferences of children in mind.

Children are generally well protected from risks. The good standard of attention given to making the home safe, for example by attending health and safety training and by assessing the premises for hazards, has ensured that children have not had any accidents to date. Although the childminder has an evacuation procedure in place she has not been able to include children in an escape drill to ensure that the procedure in place is appropriate.

Children's welfare is safeguarded well because the childminder has a good understanding of child abuse and of child protection issues. There are policies and procedures in place to safeguard children and to ensure that parents are aware of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and settled. They have very good relationships with the childminder. Children are busy with activities and they tell the inspector they are very clever. Whilst they have their snack one of the children aged two years kindly asks the inspector if they would like a drink. When children are tired they tell the childminder saying 'sleepy', children fall asleep singing themselves to sleep.

The childminder plans the day well to ensure that children are able to relax and play and she ensures that the activities and experiences for learning and play are well balanced and that the Birth to three framework is incorporated into the provision to improve outcomes for children.

The childminder and the children engage and interact well with each other. The children enjoy each other's company and play well together. Children's language and communication skills are developing very well and the childminder asks pertinent open ended questions and provides activities and experiences that promote this aspect of children's development well. For instance children name each animal in the picture books and name each item of pretend food as they

take them out of the bag. Some of the children know the words to stories, such as 'Boo Barney' very well so that they tell the story as the childminder turns the pages of the book. Children enjoy fitting in the pieces of the puzzle and then trying to describe the pictures on the completed puzzle.

Children enjoy pretend play with the mini kitchen, they pretend to cook eggs, preferring to cook fried eggs in the oven instead of on the hob. Children enjoy a variety of activities, such as painting, drawing, construction play, musical instruments and singing. Children go out everyday, for instance they visit the library on a weekly basis where they choose books and listen to stories with puppet performances. The childminder ensures that children have opportunities to experience play using materials such as sand and water by visiting local children's drop in groups. Children also visit the park for fresh air and for physical exercise.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing a good awareness of the different groups within society, for instance the resources available, such as play materials and books, have been carefully chosen to give a balanced view of the community and to help develop an appreciation of multi-cultural society. Children's individual needs are well met by the childminder who gathers a good range of information about children, such as their medical, cultural, religious and dietary needs.

Children are learning to play with each other, to share and to take turns. Unwanted behaviour, such as occasional snatching, is managed very well and the childminder makes clear to children the consequences of inappropriate behaviour, for instance of jumping on furniture or stepping on toys. The childminder engages with the children during their play and she demonstrates to them positive aspects of behaviour, such as sharing. Children are frequently praised, raising their self esteem and encouraging their future positive behaviour.

Children thrive and do well in the setting because there are very good relationships between the childminder and their parents and carers. Information about children, to ensure consistency and continuity of care, is exchanged on a daily basis. Parents have access to a good range of written information about the service, including a complaints procedure and a range of policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is well organised in all aspects of her care of children. She is committed and dedicated. For instance since registration she has attended a variety of learning programmes including Birth to three matters, health and safety training and a course on how children learn. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and the regulations, for instance about notifying Ofsted of significant changes and incidents, so that children are safe, secure and well cared for.

All the significant records and documents required, such as the attendance record and children's records, are accurately maintained, detailed and stored safely in a confidential manner. The childminder is aware of the requirement to keep records for a minimum of two years. The childminder has a good range of policies and procedures available that enhance the wellbeing and welfare of the children she looks after. 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 emergency evacuation procedures are practised regularly with 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