

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY268569
Inspection date	04 June 2007
Inspector	Amanda Joy
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 2003. She lives with her husband and three children aged nine, four and three years old. They live in Walthamstow within the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole premises is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder works with her husband who is an assistant. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years, and a total of eight children when she works with an assistant. She is currently minding three children aged six, two and one years on a part time basis. The childminder is registered for overnight care. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local park. The childminder speak four languages English, Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a warm, clean environment. Good health and hygiene procedures protect children from the risk of cross-infection. For instance, the childminder uses gloves when changing nappies and disposes of the nappies immediately in the bin outside. Daily routines and clear expectations help children develop good personal hygiene practices. Children excitedly exclaim at lunch time, 'it is washing hands time', they automatically wash their hands before and after lunch. Individual wipes are used to clean their hands when they come in from playing outside in the garden. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, which means she is able to give children appropriate care if there is an accident. Babies and young children's individual routines for eating and sleeping are followed. This ensures continuity of care and contributes to their physical well-being. Children sleep contentedly in their individual cots, they bring blankets from home which helps sooth them to sleep.

Menus are healthy and balanced; menus are rotated on a four weekly basis and clearly displayed in the hall for parents to see. Children use the menus to discuss different food options available to them. They enjoy omelettes and peas for lunch, alternative meals are given to children with specific dietary requirements. The childminder has a sound understanding of the nutritional needs of children and works closely with parents to ensure their individual diets are catered for. Mealtimes are relaxed, sociable occasions where they all sit together at a low-level table and chairs whilst enjoying their food. Children receive regular drinks using their own individual cups and beakers. This helps to ensure they do not become thirsty or dehydrated.

Children's physical development is well nurtured; the childminder ensures that they have daily opportunity for vigorous exercise making good use of the well resourced garden, local parks as well as indoor alternatives such as soft play activities. The childminder supports babies and children well, becoming involved as they try out their developing skills for example, as they try and piece a floor puzzle together. This has a positive effect on encouraging children to set their own challenges and acquire new skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an inviting, safe and child-centred environment. The playroom is brightly decorated, well-maintained and made welcoming through the use of colourful posters and displays of the children's work. Resources are invitingly laid out and easily accessible to children, this allows children to access resources independently. Children have use of a good range of equipment, toys and resources that are suitable, safe and appropriate for their purpose. The organisation of resources allows the children to make choices and promote their independence well. The childminder updates her play equipment on a regular basis to ensure they are safe and suitable. Appropriate child sized tables and chairs enable children to be comfortable during their play. The lounge is used for quiet activities and enables children to have sufficient opportunity, to rest and relax during periods of the day.

Young children sleep in the bedrooms where it is quiet and comfortable, appropriate monitoring and supervision ensures they are safe although, this information is not documented. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures, for example safety gates at the bottom and top of the stairs, smoke alarms at every level of the premises, a fire blanket in the kitchen and a

high bolt on the front door. Young children learn simple rules that keep them safe when playing, such as sitting down carefully on their chairs when they are playing.

The childminder has sound knowledge of child protection issues. She knows what action she needs to take, if she has any concerns about a child in her care. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare. Children are never left with any adult other than those who have been cleared as suitable to work with children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures children meet her and her family a few times before the placement begins. This helps to build up close relationships and ensure children become familiar with the environment before being left. The childminder and her assistant offer a high level of individual attention and reassurance supports them to separate from their parents. There is warm interaction between the childminder and the children, children are confident, independent and are developing a high sense of self-esteem. They develop positive relationships with adults and each other, and they are given good opportunities to socialise with other children at local drop in groups and local parks.

Children relate well to adults and their peers and are becoming good communicators. They chat confidently to each other during creative play and when playing with the computer. The childminder makes good use of conversation and asks questions such as, 'what noise does the cat make'? This helps to extend children's thinking through play.

Children are engaged purposefully throughout their time with the childminder and have good opportunities to have fun, learn and develop new skills. They take part in a wide range of activities including role play, physical play and creative play. Children's creativity is well supported by the childminder who plans well to encourage them to create their own designs. Children enjoy making 'rainbows' and 'hands' using plasticine. They concentrate well and have fun as they paint pictures using a selection of paints.

The childminder talks to babies and young children about what they are doing which encourages them to link words with actions. Babies enjoy looking at activity books, they show pleasure when they look at their favourite book called, 'Roly Poly Mo'.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children explore their community as they visit the local park and other places of interest such as, the natural history museum. Children learn about the importance of respect of others through discussion and occasional activities such as crafts linked to world faith festivals such as Xmas and Eid. There are some resources to reflect diversity however, these are limited. The childminder ensures children's inclusion by being aware of their individuality, age and stage of development. Older children show care and concern for the younger children, they talk and sing to babies and ensure they have access to toys.

The childminder has a list of clear, appropriate house rules that children helped to devise; these are clearly displayed in the hall. This helps to ensure children are clear about boundaries and know what is expected of them. Children behave well and are learning to share; they patiently

take turns as they use a range of small tools and cutters. Children are treated with respect and are given lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem.

The partnership with parents is good. Children's individual needs are discussed with the parents before the placement begins, this information is clearly documented on their registration forms. This ensures continuity of care. Systems to record babies and young children's general welfare, food intake, sleeping and eating patterns have not yet been developed. Their daily routine is currently discussed informally with parents at the end of the day. The childminder provides parents with written information regarding most of her policies including how complaints will be dealt with. Contracts are in place however, some lack detail with regards to the role of her assistant.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a secure understanding of the National Standards for childminding and her responsibility to comply with these to provide good quality childcare. Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate their own play. The childminder's plan provides interesting and enjoyable activities for children each day, although, too few activities allow children to explore the wider world. A real strength of this particular setting is that the childminder and her assistant provide lots of individual attention and support to children, consequently children are happy and make good progress in their development.

Children safety is paramount, all areas of the home are safe and the childminder and her assistant are vigilant with regards to the supervision of children. A good standard of hygiene is maintained within the home. The childminder is committed to working in partnership with parents, providing a flexible and reliable child-care arrangement for children and their families ensuring continuity of care. The childminder's vetting procedures ensure that all adults living in her home are suitable to have access to children. The required records, policies and procedures which contribute to children's health, safety and welfare are maintained. However, contracts lack some detail and written information regarding babies routines are not yet in place. 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:

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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 contracts include details of all childminding activities
- further develop the range of activities and resources to promote children's awareness of different cultures lifestyles and abilities.

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