

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	135585
Inspection date	24 April 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 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 2000. She lives with her husband, two adult sons and her granddaughter aged six years. They live in the London borough of Enfield. The whole 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five all day. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The home environment is very clean and well maintained. The childminder shows a good knowledge of how to promote children's good health. For example, she states she ensures children use individual wipes every time they go to the toilet. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of appropriate first aid and medication procedures. She

has undertaken relevant first aid training to ensure children receive appropriate care if they have an accident. She updates her first aid training every three years as required and completes a refresher course annually.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of the importance of providing a healthy, balanced diet for children. The meals she provides are clearly documented in the parent's communication book. She offers a range of nutritious meals such as, broccoli and chicken, fish and potatoes. Children's allergies, likes and dislikes are documented on their registration forms to ensure their individual needs are met.

The childminder demonstrates a clear awareness of the importance of promoting lots of opportunity for healthy exercise for children. She states she organises activities that enable them to explore different movements using play equipment in the garden such as, balancing on the climbing frame and peddling bikes and scooters. She shows that children would be given good opportunities to develop their physical skills. Routine visits to the park are used to make sure children have experiences to be in the fresh air and a chance to use a different range of outdoor play apparatus.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The space within the home is organised appropriately to meet children's different needs and ensure they are safe and comfortable. Play resources are invitingly displayed and organised appropriately according to their age and stage of development. This means that children can safely access a balanced range of toys and equipment from a low-level storage unit.

Discussion with the childminder and observations indicate that she has taken appropriate action to ensure risks in her home have been minimised, allowing children to play safely. For example, safety gates in position prevent children gaining access to the stairs unsupervised. The childminder has considered safe evacuation in an emergency and has devised a fire drill. Appropriate fire fighting equipment is in place which contributes to children's safety if there is a fire.

The childminder verbally demonstrates a clear understanding of her responsibilities to carry out child protection procedures. This enables her to safeguard children's welfare appropriately. She intends to further her knowledge by attending a child protection course. Relevant child protection procedures are in place and contact numbers are easily accessible.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Evidence suggests that children are settled appropriately according to their individual needs. Children are normally settled in over a two week period but this can be negotiated with parents to ensure children are happy and secure before being left.

Discussion indicates that the childminder provides a range of experiences to help children develop in all areas of their learning. The childminder talks about the provision of activities that offer appropriate levels of challenge, suitable to their individual developmental needs. She states children enjoy a range of musical toys, rattles, shakers and activity centres as well as listening to stories.

Discussion indicates she takes children out regularly to places of interest in the community. They go to the park, library, toy library and parent and toddler group on a regular basis. She explains that this gives children the opportunity to have different experiences and helps to develop their social skills in a variety of settings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates through discussion that she has a sound relationship with parents. A daily discussion with parents which is supported with the use of communication books ensures they are fully informed about the provision. Information includes the children's daily routines, activities and food intake.

Evidence suggests that children are valued and respected as individuals; the childminder works with parents to ensure individual children's needs and routines are followed and met. She states that children learn about their local community through visits to places of interest. All children are encouraged to have equal access to all the play equipment. A satisfactory range of resources reflect diversity. However, there are too few activities to raise children's awareness of the wider world. This limits their awareness and respect of diversity.

The childminder talks about how she encourages children to behave well. She keeps children happy and occupied as a preventative measure to any untoward behaviour which she finds to be effective. She talks about ensuring that she offers explanations to children according to their age and level of understanding, to help them learn right from wrong. She considers it is important to praise children for positive behaviour helping them to develop a secure sense of self-esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is organised and has ensured all documentation is up to date, available for inspection and stored safely. Written policies and procedures contribute effectively to the safe running of the setting, promoting the care and welfare of all children. The childminder plans to continuously evaluate and update these to keep information current and up-to-date.

The childminder clearly demonstrates how children would be kept safe in her care and their welfare safeguarded by her understanding and implementation of required policies and procedures. The childminder has sound procedures to ensure there is appropriate communication with parents. Information supplied to parents suggest they are aware of the procedure to follow should they wish to make a complaint.

The premises and equipment are maintained to a good level of hygiene. The childminder plans and provides a range of activities and play equipment although, too few activities raise children's awareness of the wider world. Discussion with the childminder indicates that children feel at home and at ease in the setting, and that they are confident to initiate and extend their play. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision would meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection satisfactory improvements have been made. Recommendations were made regarding the childminder's suitability, first aid training and recording of accidents. The childminder's son has had an enhanced criminal disclosure check completed confirming his suitability to be in the proximity of children. The childminder has completed first aid training and has a current first aid certificate. This means that children receive appropriate care if there is an accident. The childminder is aware of her responsibilities to ensure any accidents are appropriately recorded. She has an accident book although there are no entries as there have been no accidents involving children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- increase the range of activities to raise children's awareness and understanding of people from various lifestyles, cultures 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