

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY235111
Inspection date	20 April 2007
Inspector	Chris Banks
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 2000. She lives with her husband, adult son and daughter in a three bedroom house in the N1 area of Islington.

A lounge and bedroom are the main areas used for childminding purposes. A fully enclosed patio garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She currently cares for six children and is registered to provide overnight care for one child.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright and homely setting. Standards of cleanliness are good throughout and children benefit from the well organised health and hygiene routines of the childminder who ensures areas used by children are cleaned each day before they arrive.

Nappy changing arrangements are suitably clean and hygienic. Older children are positively encouraged to learn about the importance of hand washing and other personal hygiene habits and are gently encouraged with toilet training.

Children are well protected from the risk of infection because the childminder has a clear sickness policy and acts in the best interest of children if they become ill in her care. Her knowledge about the symptoms of many early childhood illnesses is shared with parents who are advised to keep children at home if they are unwell. The childminder describes well how she acts in the event of emergency but her First Aid certificate is now out of date.

The individual dietary needs of children are well catered for. They enjoy a well balanced diet because the childminder translates the principles of healthy eating into good practice. Mostly fresh ingredients are used for meals and children's preferences for certain foods are taken into good account. Mealtimes are sociable occasions for children who enjoy eating together and learning new skills. A clear record of children's dietary needs is kept.

The childminder understands well the benefits of fresh air and exercise for children. Children experience a good range of outdoor play opportunities which promotes their all round development and are regular visitors to local parks and an easily accessible playground with fixed play equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and very secure environment. They are well supervised by the childminder who takes good practical safety precautions and ensures the identity of any visitors is carefully checked. The childminder also acts in the best interests of children when making arrangements for their arrival and collection. She acts decisively if there are any concerns and liaises closely with parents about any changes in arrangements.

Within in the home all required safety equipment is in place and there is also now a written emergency evacuation procedure. Children are encouraged to behave in a responsible way and are learning about how to play safely. They are also made aware of potential dangers when out and about. There is, however, no written permission from parents to take children out.

The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to safeguarding the overall welfare of children. They are well protected because the childminder has a clear and thorough understanding of child protection issues. She is fully aware of her role and responsibility and knows who she should inform if she has concerns. Telephone contact numbers of child protection agencies are, however, not up to date.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the relaxed and homely atmosphere created by the childminder. Their daily routines are successfully combined with those of the childminder's own family and adapted to meet the individual needs of each child. Meal times and rest periods are planned well to ensure children do not become overly tired or too hungry.

Children enjoy warm interaction with the childminder who encourages their communication skills and interprets well the needs of younger children.

Children are developing good independence skills because they are able to choose what they play with and can comfortably help themselves from a satisfactory range of age appropriate toys and equipment. They are positively encouraged to take care of equipment and readily help tidy up before meal times.

Activities are suitable for children's age and stage and development and trips out to local parks and visits to other childminders also enable children to socialise with others.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met by the childminder who liaises closely with parents to develop well organised routines. The settling in process for new children is gradual and the warm reassuring support of the childminder helps them feel valued and secure.

Relationships with parents are well established and they regularly receive information about how their child is progressing. They are made welcome to visit at any time during the child's day.

The different backgrounds of children are valued. The languages of bi lingual children are respected because the childminder learns key words and phrases of children's home language and often uses this to reassure children. Any concerns about children's development are shared with parents in a sensitive and professional way. A satisfactory range of diverse resources in the home also helps children to acknowledge and learn about difference.

Children play happily and contently alongside each other. Their behaviour is guided in a sensitive way and they are strongly encouraged to be kind and considerate towards each other. If any minor conflicts do arise, they are dealt with promptly and with gentle explanation.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder prepares very well before children arrive each day and this helps make them feel welcome and settled. There is sufficient space for children to play in comfort and safety with cosy and comfortable sleeping arrangements in the main bedroom and lounge.

Children's daily routines are well planned and sensitively organised by the childminder which helps children develop a sense of security within the childminding setting. Relationships with children are warm and trusting.

The childminder is aware under what circumstances Ofsted must be contacted and has ensured household members reaching the age of 16 have been checked for suitability. Documentation is suitably organised and confidentially stored.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection, the childminder was required to ensure she had written permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice. She was also asked to develop an emergency evacuation plan. The childminder has now met both these requirements and as a consequence children are better protected.

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 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):

- obtain written consent from parents to take children on outings
- update first aid training
- ensure contact telephone numbers for child protection agencies are up to date

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