

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 128144 |
| Inspection date | 14 June 2007 |
| Inspector | Sharon Henry |

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| 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 1993. She lives with her husband and teenage son within Woodford Green area of the London borough of Redbridge. The whole of the 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 three children under five all day and one child over five after school. The childminder attends a local carer and toddler group. The family has a dog, two cats and two guinea pigs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean family home where they learn good hygiene procedures from the daily routines and from the good example set by the childminder. They learn about the importance of washing hands before eating or cookery activities and after using the toilet. The

childminder's clear policy concerning sick children helps parents to understand what happens when children are not well and protects children from infection.

The childminder is first aid trained and she is careful to keep the first aid box stocked appropriately. Accidents and medication are well recorded and consent to emergency medical treatment is requested before care begins. These procedures help to keep parents fully informed about their children's care.

Children develop an awareness of the importance of a healthy diet and benefit from the provision of balanced nutritious meals and snacks that contribute to their well-being. For example, fisherman's and Shepherds pie and vegetables being served with all meals. As a result children are learning about healthy eating options.

Children's good health is further protected as the childminder carefully records dietary information gained from parents. She has a good understanding of catering for cultural and religious differences and children with any special dietary needs, working co-operatively with parents. Children have access to fresh drinking water at all times, as younger children are encouraged to help themselves to drinks from their beakers and older children are able to access drinks when they want to. As a result, children are thoroughly hydrated and comfortable.

Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills through a variety of play experiences both inside and outside. The children move freely and confidently within the childminder's home, where there are excellent opportunities to select play equipment independently, thus enabling their exploration, investigation, communication and imagination skills to be developed. Children's outdoor play is further expanded within the local community by going on trips to the park and places of interest such as the farm, soft play area and the zoo. Children also have access to the secure outdoor area, where they are able to play with a good selection of outdoor equipment such as push and rides and a child side bouncing castle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure setting. The premises is well organised to meet their needs and to make children feel welcome and at home. For example, toys and activities are easily accessible to children encouraging their independence and learning about choice. They move safely and independently around the home which is clean and well maintained. Children are able to play, rest and sleep and have their care needs met.

Children have access to a well-organised, spacious, bright and airy playroom with child-height furniture. Children are able to choose from a varied range of good quality toys, books and games that meet their developmental needs well. Equipment is checked regularly to ensure that it poses no risk to children.

Children are well protected in the event of a fire because there is a clear written escape plan that is practiced with the children regularly. As a result children are learning what to do should there be an emergency. Children benefit from the safety measures that are in place. For example, a well placed fire blanket in the kitchen, smoke alarms on all levels of the home and stairgates to prevent children from entering unsupervised area. This contributes to children welfare and well being.

Children's safety is promoted when taking children out. For example, younger children are strapped in the buggy and older children are encouraged to hold onto the buggy. The childminder has a varied range of different sized car seats to ensure children are safely and securely transported in her car.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who has a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and has all relevant and up-to-date guidance to assist with the process of protecting children in her care. This enables her to give priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good and varied range of activities and resources which meets their individual needs well and enables children to progress appropriately. For example, craft, cooking, games, puzzles and a variety of small world toys. Children are confident and interact well with each other and adults. They are learning to take responsibility for their actions and behave well.

Children benefit from the individual attention they receive from the childminder. She makes time to talk and listen to them, providing opportunities for them to develop their vocabulary and language skills. This contributes to their confidence and self-esteem. They receive lots of cuddles and thrive on quiet times spent alone with the childminder, increasing their sense of well-being. The childminder knows the children well and uses this knowledge to develop close and caring relationships with all the children.

Children confidently talk about their needs and interests, likes and dislikes. For example, they talk about their sibling and recall past events such as visits to the farm. They enjoy singing and playing with musical instruments and being involved in role play, such as, pretending to make cakes and pizzas, wash up and then make dinner. There is excellent use of communication and effective interaction which enables the children to be relaxed in the childminder's care.

Children indulge in creative activities such as colouring and sticking. They are beginning to use tools such as scissors as they cut out dinosaurs. Children benefit from the good range of creative resources that are available. For example, pipe cleaners glitter. They become excited as they use sticks to make designs on black paper and eagerly show the childminder their achievement, who responds with delight. As a result children feel valued and their achievements are celebrated.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children from different backgrounds and those with learning difficulties and disabilities are warmly welcomed by the childminder. Children's individual needs are identified and good liaison between the childminder and parents enables ongoing support to be maintained. Children have very good access to resources which positively reflect the wider society and community in which they live. However the resources that reflect disability are sparse. Children have good opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through planned activities and outings within the local community.

Children are effectively beginning to learn right from wrong through positive interaction from the childminder. They are very familiar with the routines and have clear understandings of the

rules. As a result they are well behaved. Children receive praise and encouragement as they complete their tasks. They enjoy helping the childminder to tidy away the equipment at the end of the session. The children are starting to foster good relationships with one another and this is promoted through positive contributions by the childminder. Children are beginning to learn and have an awareness of boundaries and rules such as sharing and taking turns.

Good relationships are established with parents, enabling ongoing communications to take place regarding children's progress and routines in order to fully support children. Paperwork is regularly reviewed with parents to ensure children's welfare and to encourage continuity of care.

Parents receive information about the provision via daily verbal feedback, welcome pack and a well designed newsletter

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises space and resources to meet the needs of the children very well, as a result children feel at home and at ease. Children are kept safe due to the childminder's good awareness of vetting procedures for adults having supervised or unsupervised access to the children. The numbers of children cared for ensures that each child is given high quality individual attention. The children benefit well from the childminder's experience in childcare, and she continues to update her knowledge by accessing training to enhance the service she offers. Documentation is maintained very well to promote children's welfare. It is filed appropriately ensuring confidentiality, and records and information are shared with parents to promote continuity of care.

The childminder meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to devise a system of recording incidents and obtain a copy of the local authority's child protection guidelines.

The childminder has attended child protection training and has relevant information of child protection which includes information on procedures to follow should she have any concerns. She has obtained an incident book. As a result children's health, safety and welfare is enhanced.

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):

- enhance the range of resources and activities available to develop children's awareness and understanding of diversity with regard to disability.

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