

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140172
Inspection date	16 July 2007
Inspector	Roulla Xyrizos
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 has been registered since 1990. She lives with her three children aged 16, 10 and four years old. They live in a three bedroom terraced house in Tottenham, within the London borough of Haringey, and within walking distance of Bruce Castle park.

The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight at any one time and is currently minding one child aged under one year, and one child aged under five. The family has a Yorkshire Terrier dog, and minded children have supervised access to the animal.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a well-organised environment. Children are protected from the risk of cross infection because of the childminder's practice. For example, the childminder does not share tissues to wipe children's noses, and uses antibacterial non toxic wipes for cleaning surfaces. Children have a good understanding of simple health and hygiene practices, and of keeping themselves healthy because the childminder supports and informs the children. For example, children are taught to put their hand over their mouth when coughing, and are taught the importance and reasons for hand washing.

The childminder has relevant first aid training and her first aid box is well stocked. The childminder seeks written parental consent before administering medication, and has implemented the necessary recording procedures when administering medication to children in order to maintain consistency of care and good health.

Children learn about the importance of developing a healthy attitude towards exercise because of the activities the childminder provides. For example, children are taken for regular trips to the local park where they develop their physical skills and use large play apparatus. The childminder also undertakes music and dance classes where children enjoy singing and dancing.

The childminder provides opportunities for children to rest or sleep during the day in accordance with their individual needs. For example, one child prefers to sleep in their buggy and the childminder will gently rock the child to sleep before placing the child in their buggy.

The childminder has a good understanding of children's dietary needs and helps children to learn about healthy food options by including the children in simple food preparation activities. For example, children will help to chop carrots and cucumber and dip them in yoghurt.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and mainly safe environment. The childminder has fitted stair gates to the bottom and top of the stairs, fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the kitchen, and low-level glass has been covered with safety film. However, children's safety may be compromised as there is no smoke alarm on the ground floor, the banisters are loose and the stairs are congested because of numerous pairs of shoes which have been placed there. This may delay swift evacuation in the event of an emergency.

The childminder helps children to develop an awareness of safety. For example, the childminder explains the importance of emergency evacuation to the children in a calm manner in order for the children to understand the importance of evacuating the premises should there be an emergency. The childminder will further extend children's learning by undertaking activities such as pretending to telephone the fire brigade.

The childminder provides safe and suitable equipment and this enables children to move around freely and make choices confidently. The childminder has built a good and varied range of toys and resources which meet the needs of all the children. This includes creative activities, puzzles, dollies, toys for babies, toddlers and young children. The toys and resources are appropriate to children's age and stage of development.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues, and is clear regarding her role and responsibilities, and the procedure to follow if she has concerns. This safeguards children's welfare and supports their well-being. The childminder does not have written Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures which are obtainable from her local authority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good knowledge of children's development and ability. She chooses challenging and appropriate activities and toys and the children show a keen interest in what they do. For example, children will dance and join in with familiar songs and rhymes with actions, for example, 'wind the bobbin up' action rhyme.

The childminder offers plenty of encouragement and praise, and as a result children develop their self-esteem and confidence. The childminder spends time talking and playing with the children. The children respond positively to her and are confident, happy and secure.

The children take part in a broad range of well-planned activities which reflect their individual interests. The childminder incorporates active, quiet and rest times in her routines and adapts her routines to suit individual children's needs. For example, the childminder is very aware when children are hungry or need to rest or sleep.

The childminder provides appropriate toys and activities which provides children with opportunities for creative play. For example, art and craft activities, bracelet making activities, felt circus activities and a variety of art equipment.

Children develop their interest in books and stories because the childminder reads and shares books with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has appropriate knowledge and awareness of the importance of treating each child with equal respect. Children gain an insight into the wider world because the childminder talks about the community around them and through planned activities such as reading books and celebrating religious festivals.

Resources and play materials depict positive images of culture and ethnicity, for example, dolls and books. The childminder demonstrates an appropriate awareness of how to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children are generally well behaved, and this is because of the childminder's effective behaviour management, which takes into account children's age and level of understanding. Children are helped to understand right from wrong because the childminder will always explain consequences to children. For example, she will explain why children should never run across the road, and why they must always hold her hand. The childminder encourages and values positive behaviour. For example, she will praise children which makes children feel good about themselves.

Children settle well due to the childminder's positive partnership with parents. The childminder obtains relevant information from parents regarding their children, which enables her to provide appropriate care. Daily feedback ensures that parents are kept informed of routines and the

childminder discusses her practice and procedures before childminding commences. However, the childminder is not up to date with the current complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel secure within a generally well-organised environment. Parents are provided with information relating to the services provided and are given daily verbal reports on their children's progress. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. The majority of legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place. However, the childminder cannot locate her accident records, and has failed to obtain Criminal Records Bureau checks for all adults living in the premises.

Whilst the premises are generally safe and secure, the childminder should revisit her risk assessment procedures in order to minimise or eliminate hazards to children. Children's welfare is generally safeguarded, however, the complaints procedure and Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures are not up to date.

Children are confident to make demands on the childminder, in the knowledge that their needs will be appropriately met. The childminder is committed to ongoing training. For example, she will be attending a child protection refresher training course.

The childminder meets 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 develop toys and activities to provide children with more challenge and more opportunities for creative play. The childminder now has appropriate toys and activities that provides children with more challenge and more opportunities for creative play.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004, there has been one complaint relating to National Standard 1 - Suitable Person, National Standard 3 - Care, Learning and Play, National Standard 6 - Safety and National Standard 12 - Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers. The complaint related to the supervision of children and children's individual needs not being met. Ofsted carried out an unannounced visit and found that standards had been breached. The childminder was served a compliance notice and took appropriate action to meet the standards. The childminder remains qualified for registration.

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):

- provide a complaints procedure and system for recording complaints that is in line with current legislation
- undertake regular risk assessments, identify and reduce or eliminate any hazards and fit smoke alarm to ground floor of the premises.
- be familiar with Local Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures
- ensure all adults in the home are vetted and ensure all records are available for inspection

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