

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	144512
Inspection date	02 October 2007
Inspector	Vivienne Rose
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 1999. She lives with her three children aged three and

15 and her adult son in Haggertson in the London borough of Hackney. They live in a four bedroom maisonette. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and also the upstairs bathroom and a bedroom are used for sleep and rest. There is no garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding three children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. She is registered to provide care for two children overnight.

The childminder walks to local schools and takes the children to the local park, toy libraries and shops. The childminder is a member of the Woodbury Down Childminding Network.

The family has a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are learning to be healthy as they are made aware of daily routines to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children move around the clean well maintained home showing independence and security. Each child has an accident record sheet. This is maintained confidently and an acknowledgement is signed by parents to ensure their good health. The childminder has satisfactory procedures in place to promote good hygiene practice for example, sterilising nappy changing mats and separate hand towels for the children to prevent cross infection. However, at present the cat litter tray is stored in a way that does not fully protect the good health of the children. Records of dietary and medical needs and permission for emergency medication ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded appropriately. There are good opportunities for the children to develop their physical skills as the childminder takes them out regularly to local facilities for example, the toy library and local parks. Young children receive lots of warmth and affection. This supports their emotional well-being and gives them confidence to explore new experiences.

The childminder's healthy eating policy ensures that children enjoy a variety of fresh food including, fruit yoghurt, bread sticks, finger food such as cucumber, cheese and jacket potatoes. Individual needs are considered and discussed with parents to ensure continuity of care. Menus are provided which offer a vegetarian option for children to support their choice and preferences. Children's well-being is protected as the childminder holds a certificate in basic hygiene to enable her to prepare and store food in a hygienic manner. Drinks are offered to the children throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are very happy confident and settled in the warm family atmosphere created. Risk assessments are carried out on toys and resources and anything old or hazardous is discarded. The childminder is aware of the need to monitor the toys to their suitability and that they are age and stage appropriate for children. This ensures their welfare. However, the presence of accessible unsecured electrical cables does not fully protect children's safety. Children confidently move around the setting which is organised to enable them to develop their independence and choice for example, low-level storage is used. The children have access to the playroom and child height table and chairs for their comfort. Good quality equipment is provided which is varied and inviting. For example, home corner, play people and a farm. This gives children the opportunity to come to terms with the world around them. Children's safety is considered at all times when in and out of the home, as there are clear procedures in place for the children's arrival and departure and parents give their permission for outings.

The childminder has clear written procedures in place to safeguard children's welfare and she understands the signs and symptoms of abuse and records incidents and existing injuries. This fully protects children's welfare.

However, the written procedure for child protection needs to be updated in line with the Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB).

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and relaxed with the childminder who provides a home from home atmosphere. This ensures that children settle in well. Children's care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation to support their needs. Children show good independence skills as they access toys and resources which are easily accessible to them. They play happily with the childminder who interacts with them and helps them to learn for example, when playing with animals in the farmyard. Children are asked to name the animals and talk about the farmer and his wife.

Children have good, relaxed relationships with the childminder who is friendly and caring which supports their self-esteem. They are beginning to make themselves understood through language and actions for example, when they want their nappy changed. Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft, painting, listening to stories, playing with musical instruments, role play and dressing up. Some activities are laid out for the children and there is a system so that children can choose other toys and resources from low-level storage. Effective questioning by the childminder for example, naming the pictures on the children's name cards helps to develop their language and communication skills. The good quality, stimulating toys provide a good balance and challenge for children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the world and their local environment through outings and regular attendance to local groups and facilities. These visits introduce them to other children and new experiences. Children are learning to accept differences through a wide range of resources that are provided for them which reflect positive images for example, books and construction toys. The childminder has a clear policy for the management of behaviour, she encourages children to say 'please and thank you'. She works closely with parents to agree strategies to help children learn the importance of right and wrong.

Children benefit from the good relationship the childminder has with their parents. The childminder has developed a supportive approach to parents. There is a regular exchange of information about the children. The records that are kept on children's developmental progress supports the continuity of care given and enhances their learning. These records are regularly shared with parents to keep them informed of their child's progress. Policies and procedures are shared with parents which includes safeguarding children, equal opportunities and behaviour and complaints. The childminder has discussed the complaints procedure with the parents to ensure that are clear about the procedure to follow. However, the written policy is in need of updating in line with current legislation.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are involved and relaxed in the well organised environment. The premises are laid out appropriately to enable children to have choices about the resources that they play with which encourages their independence. Most areas of the home are secure and safe and the childminder gives priority to the children's welfare. However, the risk assessments carried out are not sufficiently rigorous to ensure fully that all areas used by the children ensure their health and safety. Children receive good support from the childminder who enjoys their company and

knows them well. This helps the children to feel secure and confident. The childminder attends training whenever she can. This ensures that she is able to provide appropriate care for the children that she looks after. For example, she has recently attended a basic hygiene course and disability awareness training. The daily records of children's attendance are well maintained and the registration details of children and their needs are comprehensive.

The childminder has taken the appropriate steps to inform Ofsted of the changes that have occurred in the household. Written policies and procedures guide the childminder's daily practice. This ensures that the children's needs are met and relevant information is shared with parents. The two way flow of information promotes continuity of care. All mandatory records are in place, confidential and well maintained to promote the safety and welfare of the children. However, some policies are in need of updating in line with current legislation. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to; ensure that accident records were available; that the children's arrival and departure times were recorded; resources were improved to contain positive images.

The provider now records all accidents and the children's arrival and departure times. This ensures and safeguards children's health and well-being. Resources have been purchased to contain images for example, play people which reflect diversity to ensure that children are beginning to learn about the needs of others in their community.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- ensure that the cat litter tray does not pose a hazard to children's health
- ensure that hazards to the children are minimised with reference to low- level electrical wires.

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