

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	133123
Inspection date	14 September 2007
Inspector	Catherine Greene
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 has been a registered since 1986. She lives with her daughter aged 16 in a three bedroom maisonette in Archway in the London borough of Islington. The property is within easy walking distance of local shops, parks and transport links. The whole of the ground floor, consisting of the through lounge/dining room and bathroom facilities are used and a fully enclosed patio is available for outside play. The family has a cat.

The childminder is currently caring for four children under five years who attend on a part time basis.

The childminder attends local children's play facilities on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and welcoming environment. They learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care by regular encouragement from the childminder through

their daily routines. Children are encouraged and supported when washing their hands after the use of the toilet, at meal times or when coming in from an outside activity.

Children develop their physical skills through regular trips to the park, activities in the garden and during walks. These activities provide the children with opportunities to be in the fresh air which contributes to healthy living. They enjoy regular outings to Waterlow and Paradise park.

The childminder is dedicated to providing all children with healthy meals and has a good understanding of foods that provide a balanced diet. Children enjoy freshly cooked meals with lots of fruit and vegetables in a mainly vegetarian menu and they are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. The childminder obtains appropriate information on the dietary needs of the children, ensuring their needs are met should they have any allergies or dietary restrictions.

The childminder has a clear sick children's policy that is shared with parents. This policy ensures that children with an infectious illness do not attend, therefore reducing serious illness among the children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where risks are minimised and they move around safely and independently under the childminder's constant supervision. The childminder teaches the children to keep themselves safe. They also learn about safety outside the home through discussions on road safety and by using pedestrian crossings. Children are confident and know what to do if the lights are red or green.

Children select play activities from a wide range of suitable toys and equipment, which are checked by the childminder to ensure they are in good condition. Children's comfort and ability to be safely independent in many tasks is a high priority to the childminder. Furniture is very suitable, age appropriate and safe.

Children's overall welfare is maintained by good procedures and documents that promote their safety and keep parents informed. For example, the childminder is about to renew her first aid certificate. She has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and plans to repeat child protection training in the near future.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's house and form good relationships with the childminder and her family.

Children are enthusiastic, confident and involved in lots of opportunities that help build their learning in all areas. The childminder has a good knowledge of child development which helps her to promote children's personal, social, emotional and intellectual development. Children have the opportunities to take the initiative and develop their independence because of the way she organises the space, resources and equipment.

Children are provided with a range of valuable experiences, including creative and physical play. The childminder's good nurturing skills help children feel secure and valued. Activities are balanced and children socialise well through regular attendance at local community groups.

Children also enjoy a very good range of outdoor play opportunities in the garden and at Tufnell and Waterlow park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met very successfully by the childminder. She works very well with parents, regularly sharing information, photos and consulting them on all issues relating to their children's care. This ensures that children's routines are followed closely. Children are also warmly welcomed by the childminder's own family and this gives them a sense of belonging.

The childminder is committed to ensuring children learn, understand and respect differences for individual people and communities. All children have opportunities to access activities and resources provided by the childminder. The childminder knows the minded children very well and she maintains friendships with their families long after they have moved on. She is committed to learning more about children with learning difficulties or disabilities and is keen to continue further training.

The childminder is a positive role model and she is supportive and kind to the children. She rewards children's good behaviour with positive body language, smiling and spending time with children giving them her full attention. As a result children are very well behaved. The childminder is very clear about what behaviour she expects from each child. She sets clear and realistic boundaries so that each child knows what is expected of them.

Children benefit from positive relationships between the childminder and their parents. She gains the required information and consents from parents to ensure children's needs are met well. Individual progress is discussed daily with parents so that their changing needs continue to be met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is proactive in renewing required training such as first aid. She has identified additional training workshops that she is hoping to attend during the coming year, all intended to enhance the care and educational needs of the children she cares for.

The organisation of the childminder's premises ensures that the children's needs are met. Space is used well and to the full, creating areas for play, rest and eating. Activities for the children's day are planned well and take account of rest times and for the children to be taken on outings and to group activities. Children arrive ready for an exciting and stimulating day of fun and learning in the care of the childminder.

The childminder maintains appropriate documentation and information. She uses standard recorded documents, and has extended this by introducing self-designed forms for information and details that contribute to the care of the children and the management of her business. She meets the needs of the children and keeps parents informed of matters concerning their child to ensure consistent care.

The childminder meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to keep an attendance register and to request consent from parents for emergency medical treatment. She now has all required documents appropriately maintained and up-to-date.

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 the 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

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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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues

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