

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	117960
Inspection date	16 August 2007
Inspector	Daphne Prescott

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 1995. She lives with her two adult children and one child aged 14 years in Acton in the London borough of Ealing. Part of the 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 two children under five all day.

The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. There are no family pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a home where good standards of hygiene are practised. Through establishing regular routines such as hand washing before meal times, the childminder is helping young children to develop an understanding of why good personal hygiene is important. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are

unwell. The childminder holds a current first aid qualification which ensures that she has the required knowledge to deal with any accidents that may arise. This means that children are safeguarded in the event of an accident. The childminder also has the required documentation in place to record accidents and any medication that she administers and the appropriate written consents in place in relation to medication and emergency treatment which helps towards safeguarding children.

They enjoy a good variety of balanced and healthy snacks and meals, which help children, begin to develop an understanding of healthy eating. The childminder works in partnership with parents when feeding their children. She is aware of the children's dietary needs and makes sure that they are adhered to. Children have drinks readily available at all times during the day, to ensure that they are not thirsty.

The childminder uses the garden on a regular basis and she ensures that the children benefit from daily outings to local parks, where they have plenty of opportunities, to enjoy the fresh air and make use of the play equipment to develop their physical skills. Children also have daily opportunities to visit parent and toddler groups where they are able to meet their friends and take advantage of the range of activities and toys on offer there.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a very well organised environment that is warm and welcoming to children. They benefit from the wide range of suitable toys and resources. Effective organisation of toys and resources allows children to see what is available and enables young children to help themselves. The toys and play materials are stored attractively, inviting the children to make their own choices of what they wish to play with. Children are able to play in comfort as they sit on the floor to carry out activities such as playing with the dolls house.

They are cared for in a child focused environment where risks are identified and reduced to safeguard the children. There are appropriate fire safety measures to protect children, such as, smoke alarms and a fire blanket. However, the fire blanket is not fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions, which could help towards safeguarding children further in an emergency. There is a written fire evacuation plan in place, which is practised with the children. This enables them to become familiar with the procedures in case of an emergency. Children's safety is protected when out with the childminder, by careful supervision and her awareness of venues she is visiting with children.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear knowledge of the possible signs and symptoms of child abuse and the procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and very settled in the childminder's home. Relationships between the childminder and children are very warm and affectionate. They benefit from the childminder's good organisation of the activities and providing the right play materials to meet their individual developmental needs and interests. As a result, children are motivated to play and have fun playing with a good variety of toys and play equipment.

They benefit from the childminder's active involvement in their play; she joins in with them, giving lots of encouragement and praise for their efforts and achievements. For example, younger children make attempts at communicating with the childminder, as the childminder encourages the children to chat and they respond back by repeating simple words. Children enjoy playing with sound making toys as they have fun laughing when they wiggle their bodies to the sounds being made and clap their hands. Children have good opportunities to begin to use and develop their imagination because the childminder provides good props for role play. They have a lovely time playing with the doll's house, furniture and play people provided.

Children enjoy sitting with the childminder completing a shape sorter helping to increase their manipulative skills as they place the different shapes into the different shaped holes provided. They beam with delight when the childminder praises them and gives them a big hug for doing well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and confident in the childminder's home because she shows them respect and values their individuality. Young children benefit from receiving care that is consistent with their home routines because the childminder makes a point of seeking relevant information about them, their daily routines and individual preferences from their parents. The childminder provides a range of resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increases children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare. Children benefit from the childminder's calm approach to behaviour management. She uses age-appropriate and positive strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise, such as, distraction and discussion techniques to engage children in other activities.

The childminder works with parents to ensure she provides the necessary care for each child to meet their individual needs. Care arrangements and written policies and procedures are shared with parents when they place their child. The childminder does not have knowledge of the changes in the National Standards regarding complaints and this is a breach of regulations. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's progress and care through daily discussions at the end of the day. This helps to ensure the progress of children's individual development and the appropriate care is provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are happy and comfortable in the childminder's home, she has a good knowledge and understanding of their individual needs, as a result they receive lots of warm, individual attention which promotes their emotional wellbeing. She ensures that children are supervised when they are playing indoors and outdoors to keep them safe. However, fire safety needs to be addressed. The childminder organises the day to include a good variety of indoor and outdoor play activities. This helps to ensure the progress of children's individual development and learning.

Children receive continuity of care as their routines and achievements are shared between parents and the childminder. The childminder works in partnership with parents; she ensures

that parents are fully informed of her work practices and her responsibilities as a childminder. As a result the children's overall welfare is promoted and agreed with parents. Documentation is well organised. The childminder keeps the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and wellbeing, but lacks knowledge of the complaints procedure. 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 agreed to: develop knowledge of local area child protection procedure; ensure that all persons over the age of 16 years living in the household undergo checks including a criminal records check; and improve fire safety precautions by devising and practicing an emergency escape plan.

The childminder has developed her knowledge of local area child protection procedures. Checks have been completed on persons over the age of 16 years living in the household. She has devised a written fire evacuation plan, which is practised with the children. All of which helps to promote children's safety and welfare.

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 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 fire blanket is fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions
- increase knowledge of the complaints regulation.

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