

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140228
Inspection date	24 July 2007
Inspector	Philippa Clare Williams

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 1994. She lives with her husband in a ground floor flat, situated in the "Ladders area" of London borough of Haringey, within short walking distance of local schools, shops and travel links. The lounge is the main area used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder may care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently caring for one child.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit through a clean and tidy environment. They stay healthy because the childminder has suitable hygiene procedures. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands after nappy changing and toileting, and are encouraged to wipe their own nose.

Children's welfare is suitably maintained as the childminder is aware of how to keep the medication and accident records and the need to share these with parents. Children are protected because the childminder maintains clear health records and consents for each child and has an understanding of current first aid procedures.

Children are generally well nourished, they are offered freshly cooked meals such as chicken, vegetables and potatoes, with snacks of fruit. They are encouraged to drink regularly and therefore start to learn about how to keep themselves healthy. Children's individual dietary requirements are met as the childminder takes account of their dietary needs and respects parental wishes.

Children enjoy some physical activity through regular trips to the local park nearby and playing outside in the garden when the weather permits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe and well maintained home. The childminder has put some safety precautions in place such as fitting socket covers in the main room and a safety gate across the kitchen. Although the childminder is aware of how to evacuate in an emergency and has a fire blanket fitted, there is no smoke detector located on the ground floor of the premises, therefore fire safety is not fully assured. Children are closely supervised by the childminder and they are able to move freely and independently. Children start to learn about how to keep themselves safe as the childminder talks to them about road safety when out walking.

Although children have free access to toys located in the box in the corner of the room, these toys provide insufficient challenge for the current children's developmental needs, as they are primarily suitable for younger children and babies.

The childminder has an adequate understanding of the procedures to safeguard children. She demonstrates awareness of signs for concern. However, children's welfare is not fully protected as she is not secure and up to date in her knowledge of the local safeguarding procedures and who to contact in the event of a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally happy and settled in the childminder's care. Sound relationships are evident between the children and the childminder. Children confidentially interact with the childminder, for example, chatting about members of their family. This contributes to the children's sense of belonging.

Children show satisfactory levels of concentration particularly when the childminder gives children support and encouragement. For example, the childminder shows a child how to hold a pencil correctly, which enable them enjoy a mark making activity together. Opportunities for children to identify about colours and to begin to count are introduced by the childminder during children's free play and whilst looking at a book together. The childminder reads with children and asks them questions, helping to develop their language skills.

At other times children are distracted by the television which is left on constantly and are not sufficiently challenged by the toys available, as a result children are sometimes bored and under stimulated.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound understanding about equal opportunities and uses her knowledge in this area to ensure all children are valued and respected. For example, she finds out about children's specific medical needs, likes, dislikes, and comforters and uses this in her routines. Children have some opportunities to play with resources and which promote positive images of different cultures and religion, such as books and a doll. However, resources to help promote positive images of disability and gender are few. This does not help to effectively raise children's awareness of diversity. The childminder has sound awareness of learning difficulties and disabilities and aims to promote inclusion.

The childminder uses appropriate behaviour management strategies in accordance with the ages and abilities of the children. Children respond positively to this and their behaviour is generally good.

The childminder works in harmony with parents and carers to ensure children's needs are well met. Written agreements, consents, daily diaries and informal discussions with parents at the end of the day ensures continuity of care for the children. Long standing arrangements are in place and parents provide positive feedback in reference letters and cards. They value the childminder and are pleased with their children's care. However, children's parents are unable to see a record of any complaints made as the childminder has not initiated a complaints log and complaints procedures are fully not in line with latest regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are secure and happy in the care of the childminder. The childminder manages her time effectively and intentionally keeps her numbers low so that she can provide a quality service to children. Children benefit from being cared for by a childminder who organises her home to give children adequate freedom of movement. Children receive satisfactory support from the childminder to support their learning. Although children enjoy the activities, they are not always sufficiently stimulated as they are distracted by the television and the lack of age appropriate toys. The childminder follows sound health and safety procedures most of the time which ensures children are kept safe.

Most mandatory records and documentation are maintained in suitable order, which contribute to the continuity of care for children.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has made some improvements since the last Inspection. She was required to develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She now has some knowledge of indicating factors of abuse, however she is still not secure and up to date in her knowledge

of the local safeguarding procedures and who to contact in the event of a concern. As a result children's welfare is still not fully protected.

She was also required to ensure that children have an appropriate range of resources that promote anti-discriminatory practice. Although she now provides some books and a doll which present positive images of different cultures and religions, she does not provide resources that reflect disability and gender positively. Therefore children's awareness of diversity is not fully promoted.

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 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):

- update knowledge and awareness of local safeguarding children procedures including who to contact in the event of a concern
- improve the range of toys to ensure that they are age appropriate, reflect positive images of disability and gender and include imaginative and creative resources
- review the use of the television and ensure children are provided with challenging learning and play opportunities
- review the complaints procedure and maintain a record of complaints
- improve fire safety by ensuring a working smoke alarm is maintained on every level of the home

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