

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	402733
Inspection date	11 February 2008
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 satisfactory. 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 1993. She lives with her husband and two adult children, they live in Bethnal Green in the London borough of Hackney. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is no access to a garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two on a full time and part-time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local parent and toddler groups and takes children to the local park and library.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are learning to stay healthy because the childminder encourages them to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet, and they play in a warm and clean home. Children's health is satisfactorily protected as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and requests permission to administer medication and for emergency treatment. However, she

does not always request parent's to sign an acknowledgement when accidents occur and the first aid box is in need of updating. These impact on the welfare of the children.

Children are beginning to learn about healthy eating as the childminder requests that parent's provide healthy well balanced snacks and meals for the children. Children's dietary and medical needs are recorded to support their well-being. The children enjoy a variety of healthy meals such as spaghetti and fruit. However, younger children are not encouraged to gain independence and self-assurance by learning to feed themselves. Regular walks to the school and to local parks and play areas ensure that children's physical development is encouraged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe and well maintained environment where they can move around freely. The childminder provides a welcoming environment. Parents are requested to settle their child into her home to ensure that the child is secure and happy. Children play with resources that are checked regularly and meet safety standards to ensure their safety. Most activities and toys are easily accessible to enable the children to choose independently throughout the day what they play with. However, there are fewer opportunities for the children to easily access resources to develop their creativity and mark making skills.

Children are closely supervised both indoors and outdoors, to ensure their safety at all times. Appropriate safety and fire fighting equipment is in place. Consent for children to take part in outings and to travel on public transport has been obtained from parents to safeguard children.

Children's welfare is adequately promoted by the childminder who has a suitable understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. She knows what to do and who to contact if she has concerns about a child in her care. However, the childminder does not record incidents which occur outside of the childminder's home. The childminder also lacks knowledge of recent changes to requirements and the local procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, as a result the children's welfare is not fully protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from outings to local childcare groups, and visits to the library and parks. Activities and resources are laid out for the children each day. They can access a variety of resources from the storage in the hallway. For example, dolls, puzzles, construction and programmable toys. The childminder interacts well with the children supporting their learning by encouraging them to identify the shapes in the puzzle and helping them to stack the bricks and praising them for their efforts. She recognises the children's likes and dislikes, for example, that one child likes to play with the Duplo. However, there are fewer opportunities for the children to choose from a variety of books or to use mark making materials. This means that there are times when the learning opportunities are limited.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well and benefit from being treated with respect and equal concern by the childminder. Children have equal access to play resources. Children have the opportunity to play with some resources to promote equality of opportunity. For example, there are some

dressing-up clothes and books which display images of children from different cultural backgrounds. However, these resources do not reflect children with learning difficulties/and or disabilities. Children begin to understand about their place in the world through meeting with others when they go to toddler group and go on outings. They have their own culture reinforced because the childminder is able converse in their home language which supports children's self-esteem. The childminder is aware of the information that she must gather to give the appropriate care for children with special needs. Children behave well responding to the childminder who praises them when they do well. They begin to respect each other when the childminder encourages them to say 'please' and 'thank you'.

Children benefit from the satisfactory partnership with parents. Parents provide appropriate and relevant information about their children to the childminder to ensure their safety and well-being. Daily verbal feedback to parents helps them to feel part of the child's day and provides continuity of care. However, as yet there is no system in place for recording any complaints that may be made against the childminder and she lacks knowledge of the current legislation regarding the recording of complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the environment provided by the childminder which is caring and well organised. Daily routines for sleeping, eating and play help the children to feel secure and settled. Most of the required documentation is in place to support the safety and well-being of the children. However, the childminder has overlooked the fact that she needs to inform us of changes to the household members over the age of 16. Although she has been pro-active in obtaining confirmation of this persons suitability to ensure the welfare of children. This is a breach of regulation. The childminder keeps records of the children's contracted hours of attendance, however, this does not give a historical account of the children's attendance should an emergency occur, this is a breach of regulation. However, at inspection the provider took steps to rectify this. The childminder does not keep records of incidents which occur outside of the home this together with the lack of written parental acknowledgment of accidents means that children are not always fully protected. The first box is in need of updating to ensure children's welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides

Improvements since the last inspection

As a result of recommendations made at the last inspection visit the childminder now protects children's safety by ensuring that she obtains written parental permission for emergency treatment, medication and for outings. The childminder has still to ensure that all accidents that are recorded contain a written acknowledgement by parents to fully safeguard their 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 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 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):

- ensure that all accidents are recorded and parents sign an acknowledgment of any accidents that occur, and that the first aid box is updated in line with requirements
- ensure that children have regular access to a variety of books and mark making materials in order to develop their creativity and imagination
- ensure that Ofsted are informed of changes to those living or working on the premises over the age of 16, and that children's arrival and departure times are recorded promptly to ensure their welfare and safety
- develop knowledge and understanding of the current regulations regarding the recording of complaints and share this information with parents
- ensure that incidents to children which occur outside of the childminder's home are recorded appropriately in order to safeguard their welfare

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