

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	402748
Inspection date	28 August 2007
Inspector	Moreen Johnson

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 1984. She lives with her husband in Dalston in the London borough of Hackney. The areas of the childminder's home available to minded children are the living room, kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom and a fully enclosed garden. The childminder is available to collect children from the local schools and attends local drop in groups on a regular basis.

There are currently three children under five years on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing a good understanding of personal hygiene. The childminder encourages children to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and after playing in the garden. Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained house.

Children receive generally good care when they are sick. For example, the childminder ensures that children are comforted and that they maintain the correct temperature. However, children's health is not safeguarded as the childminder is not aware that Ofsted must be notified about infectious and communicable diseases. There are good accident and medication procedures in place. Children are treated appropriately in the event of accidents because the childminder is trained in first aid and holds a current certificate. Children are safe in the event of an emergency because the childminder has obtained written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment.

Children benefit from a healthy diet because the childminder promotes healthy eating well. Children are given options of snacks and meals such as fruit, raisins, rice cakes, breadsticks, Shepherds pie, roast dinners and Spaghetti Bolognese. They are offered drinks at regular intervals. The childminder shares information with parents and takes children's religious and cultural needs into account.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. For example, they use the garden and are taken out regularly to the park to engage in physical exercise, such as bike riding and climbing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised home in which a wide range of well maintained resources are easily accessible to them. They move around freely and select play materials for themselves. Children are able to rest comfortably because the childminder provides suitable sleeping facilities.

Children are cared for in a safe environment because the childminder has taken the necessary precautions to eliminate hazards. For example, the childminder has fitted window locks, a safety gate is in place at the top of the stairs and smoke alarms are fitted at all levels of the house. Children are encouraged to develop an understanding of road safety by learning the 'green cross code'.

Children's wellbeing is safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of how to protect children from harm. The childminder is aware of a range of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She is clear about her responsibility to report concerns to the relevant agencies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a stimulating environment. They play with a wide range of activities, such as musical instruments, puzzles, an Etch-a-Sketch, books, messy play activities, dolls, play foods, building blocks and dressing up items. Children feel at home in the childminder's home. They move confidently between the living room and kitchen and are allowed the freedom to climb on the sofa. Children are learning to be independent; they feed themselves with their snacks and select the activities that they wish to engage in.

Children are developing an appreciation of music. They enjoy playing with a range of musical instruments and are engrossed whilst playing the xylophone. The childminder gives the children good encouragement and praises them for their achievements.

Children have good opportunities to role play. They choose items from the well resourced dressing up box. Children show regard for each other. For example, an older child supports a younger child to choose an outfit from the dressing up box. The children enjoy pretending to be a doctor and a police person. Children are encouraged to extend their play when the childminder makes the sound of a siren.

Children are encouraged to develop their language. Throughout the session the childminder constantly talks to them. Children spontaneously talk to adults and ask questions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected and their individual needs are met well. Children's own background and family structures are valued. For example, children have access to photographs of their family events. Children are encouraged to develop a positive attitude to others by having access to a range of resources that reflect diversity. They also have opportunities to socialise with children and adults from other backgrounds by visiting local facilities. The childminder has a good level of awareness of how to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties. She also understands the benefits of working with parents to meet children's needs.

Children are developing a good understanding of appropriate behaviour and learn to distinguish between right and wrong. The childminder uses a range of suitable methods by which to manage inappropriate behaviour.

Partnership with parents is good. There are good procedures in place to share information with parents about their child's progress. The childminder respects parents' wishes in relation to children's religious backgrounds. There is a good complaints procedure in place which meets with requirements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Children are protected from harm because the childminder ensures that children are not left in the care of visitors. The childminder is aware of some of the significant changes that she must notify Ofsted about. However, the childminder is not aware that Ofsted must be notified about infectious and communicable diseases. This is a breach of regulation.

All policies, records and procedures are in place. They are well organised and securely locked away. Some written policies are available to parents. The childminder ensures that her registration certificate is displayed in accordance with requirements. Children's attendance records are kept updated with arrival and departure times. The childminder is aware of the importance of retaining records for the required period. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved her practice by attending child protection training. She now has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of Child Protection issues, which means that children are protected from harm. The childminder has also complied with safety requirements by fitting locks to her windows, which ensures that children are safe.

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):

- develop knowledge and understanding to notify Ofsted of infectious and communicable diseases

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