

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY101391
Inspection date	03 September 2007
Inspector	Mary Holt
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 February 2002. She lives with her husband, adult son in a three-bedroom terraced house situated in a residential of Ilford, Essex which is within the London borough of Redbridge.

The property is within walking distance of public transport, schools, parks and all local amenities. The ground floor of the premises is mainly used for childminding, the living room for play, rest and access to toys, the kitchen for meals and art and craft activities and the first floor bathroom and toilet facilities are available for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder currently cares for siblings aged six and two years old, one before and after school and the other is care for on a full time basis.

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 benefit from the good standard of hygiene maintained throughout the home. Floors and surfaces are kept clean with particular attention to cleanliness in the kitchen and toilet areas. Efficient systems provide children with the use of an individual towels after they have washed their hands and help to prevent cross-infection. Appropriate systems are in place to provide for the individual health needs of children. Children's physical health is promoted well, they go out on a daily basis for a walk in the park or to pick up small items from the local shops.

Information about children's individual needs is well recorded, this is undertaken with the agreement of parents. Records are kept of any accidents and the administration of first aid, the childminder has a current first aid qualification, this means that she has current up to date knowledge regarding how to deal with an accident or emergency situation; however, the first aid box is not currently fully stocked as required

Healthy eating is promoted well, children have fresh fruit for snacks and are provided following a main meal, this always includes fresh vegetables. The childminder is aware of the likes and dislikes of children and provides them with healthy choices, involving them in meal preparation and cooking if appropriate. Children have access to fresh water throughout the day, accessing their own cup with confidence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The child-friendly premises provides a suitable environment with ample space for children to rest, eat and play. The kitchen diner is a practical place where children can play and have direct access to the garden area. Good use is made of the garden to provide frequent opportunity for outdoor play and access to outside play equipment. The sitting room is used as a quieter area for children to rest so that they can sleep without being disturbed.

A satisfactory range of good quality, age appropriate toys and play resources is accessible to children throughout the childminding day. The individual needs of children are also supported by resources which ensure their safety as they sleep, eat and are taken on outings.

Limited systems are in place to help protect children in the event of an emergency. Smoke alarms are only fitted on the ground floor; however, it is regularly tested and a fire blanket is appropriately fitted and readily accessible. Although this has not yet been practised with minded children, the childminder is aware of the fire escape routes in the home and has formed in mind a fire drill to follow should the need arise.

Children are unable to access areas that are not used for childminding, a safety gate is in place at the foot of the stairs and high catches are in place on doors. Cleaning equipment is inaccessible to children and a secure fireguard is in place in the sitting room. Most of the glass on the premises meets the required safety standard. However, there is a broken panel of glass in the hallway which has been broken but held in place by the safety film applied to the area.

Children's well being is appropriately safe-guarded, the childminder is fully aware of her responsibility regarding child protection. She is aware of signs and symptoms which indicate concern and is confident to contact the appropriate authority. All necessary guidance and

contact numbers are easily to hand and parents are kept well informed of the childminder's procedure to ensure children are protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play happily, interacting readily with the childminder and other present. Children are confident, laughing together as they play on the floor. Children are secure and happy in the warm and caring environment, they respond readily and converse easily with the childminder, gaining confidence and experiences as well as receiving good quality attention.

Regular outings to a toddler group, local shopping centre and parks mean that children have frequent opportunity to socialise and engage in the local community. The childminder skilfully uses open questions to encourage the children to think for themselves and engages them in conversation supporting their language well.

Limited use of the TV is allowed, good use of time and general planning means that children experience a variety of activities and outings throughout the week, supporting their development in all areas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals, are confident in the childminder's care and have appropriate opportunities to learn about the wider world. They have access to a suitable range of play resources to develop their understanding of diversity. The childminder organises interesting activities for children to promote their interest in other lifestyles and cultures. Children help to prepare and cook chapattis and share information regarding their own culture and family background. Children explore their community as they visit the local park, shopping centre and local drop in group.

The childminder manages children's behaviour calmly and patiently. She uses praise to reward children's positive behaviour, for example saying 'please' and 'thank you'. The childminder is keen to work in partnership with parents. She gives parents detailed information and evidence about her registration, her first aid qualification, public liability insurance cover and her written policies and procedures regarding her childcare practices. This allows parents to make an informed decision as to whether she can meet their child's needs. Children benefit as the childminder shares information and discusses the children's progress with parents each day, this helps to provide continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised family environment. They know the childminder and her family well and are relaxed and happy. Children receive constant encouragement and attention from the childminder to support their learning and enjoyment. The areas used are organised appropriately to ensure that the children can play safely. Children benefit from the childminder's ongoing interest in and commitment to further training. The childminder demonstrates her wish to develop the quality of the provision for the children in her care as she reflects on her practice and strives to improve what she offers. All required

documentation is in place, well organised and appropriately stored with an awareness of confidentiality.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations were made following the last inspection visit in October 2003 regarding possible hazards of trailing flexes and ensuring that smoke alarms are provided on all floors of the house and a fire blanket is obtained and wall mounted in the kitchen.

Trailing flexes have been made safe and inaccessible to children, a fire blanket has been obtained and wall mounted in the kitchen, a smoke alarm has been fitted on the ground floor; however, there remains no smoke alarm on the first floor as required.

Please refer to the recommendation made following this inspection visit.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last 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

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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):

- ensure that the first aid box is replenished and maintained at all times
- ensure there is a smoke alarms, which conform to BS EN safety standards, are provided at every level of the house and are maintained in working condition, and devise and practice an emergency evacuation procedure with children
- ensure that a risk assessment of areas used by children is regularly carried out and made safe or inaccessible to minded children (E.g. the broken low level glass panel in the hallway and the unprotected drain in the garden)

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