



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160052
Inspection date	14 June 2005
Inspector	Carolyn Mary Hasler

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 has been registered since 2001. She is registered to provide care for four children under eight years; of these, not more than three may be under five years; and of these not more than one may be under one year. She doesn't offer overnight care. At present the childminder cares for seven children on a part time basis, three pre school children and four children before and after school.

She lives with her husband and two children aged sixteen and thirteen. Their house is in a quiet road in Enfield, a suburb of London. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family has a pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play an active part in learning about keeping healthy by enjoying a wide range of activities which contributes to their good health. Each day there are exiting and engaging outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example as they climb on the climbing frame, ride, or push wheeled toys. They have regular visits to the local parks and play grounds to improve their physical skills. They become increasingly aware of the needs of their bodies and begin to recognise when they are hungry, thirsty or tired. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they can learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Younger children learn through routine and example about washing their hands after going to the toilet, before and after meals and begin to understand why they are doing this.

Children are generally protected from cross infection through the use of good hygiene practices as they begin to learn about germs making them ill. The childminder ensures that all health related procedures are adhered to, for example the childminder has a sickness policy which covers the exclusion of children with infectious illness, and she has a first aid kit and a current first aid certificate.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. Drinks are available all day, they are offered a varied and nutritional diet which is tailored to their developmental age and takes account of their needs, likes and dislikes and parents wishes.

Children's accident and health records support continuity of care through effective communication between both the childminder and parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children show how they have emerging understanding of how to keep themselves safe both inside and outside the home as they listen to and respond to the childminders explanations and warnings of danger.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meets safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choices of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safe guarded and promoted. For example the childminder has an excellent understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee's Procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well. They build sound relationships with the childminder and have opportunities to play on their own and as part of a small group. The organisation of the room and resources helps children become increasingly independent as they make choices about activities and play with purpose. They sometimes share responsibility for their personal care, for example they participate in feeding themselves and sometimes wash their own hands. Children are compliant to the childminder doing tasks for them. Children perform small tasks for one another like rocking the baby and they have an acknowledged place within their peer group. Children are excited and enthusiastic, they sing familiar songs as they play, their day is full of exciting and engaging activities which they explore with enthusiasm and which pre-empt their next stage of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example they have visited the local Mosque, celebrated Greek Easter and traditional English festivals. They learn about their local community as they visit a local farm, the library, school and local parks.

Children are valued and treated as individuals, they develop good levels of self-esteem. Their needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routine which has been discussed with parents. Parents are kept up to date with children's achievements through a daily record. Children's individual sleep patterns and routines are respected, for example children sleep at differing times, on sheets which have been washed at home so that their smell is familiar. Children with special needs respond well within a supportive environment where they have opportunities to reach their full potential, they engage in the same play opportunities as other children and are supported when needed. Children show care and concern for each other, they play together harmoniously. Generally children comply with most things they are asked to do; they are confident enough to challenge weaker boundaries. Children see their work valued and displayed on the walls. They respond well to photographs, paintings and spoken words which they relate to what they see, hear, taste and feel.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are kept safe through clear vetting procedures which help to maintain that all adults around them are suitable to work with children. Children receive attention through a well-organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children's care is effectively managed through clear policies which promote their welfare, care and learning. Information is shared

regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service provided and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Comprehensive planning systems are monitored and adapted to keep children safe and to enable them to make good progress in all areas of their development. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has developed her awareness of child protection issues which ensures that children are kept safe. Children's behaviour is now compliant as the childminder develops strategies to manage their behaviour. Children's individual needs are met, they have opportunities to socialise through play activities both inside and outside the home. Children and parent's confidentiality is maintained by ensuring that confidential records are stored appropriately. Children's health is protected through ensuring that the cat receives regular health checks from the vets and that the childminder ensures that the cat is free from fleas and worms. The childminder is now familiar with the regulation to inform Ofsted of notifiable diseases. Babies and young children have benefited through the childminder's improved knowledge and understanding of birth to three years.

Complaints since the last inspection

No complaints have been received since April 2004

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- make a risk assessment of the routine for changing nappies and demonstrate how you will minimise the spread of infection from one child to another .
- develop strategies to encourage children to take increasing responsibility towards independence.
- develop knowledge and understanding of managing children's behaviour
- complete vetting procedures on all members of the household who are over the age of 16 years, ensure that permission is in place to seek medical

attention in the event of an emergency

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk