

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140247
Inspection date	06 September 2007
Inspector	Asia Islam
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 was registered in 1998 and lives with her family, including her child aged 11 years old. They live in the Stroud Green area of the London Borough of Haringey. Children have access to the lounge, master bedroom, kitchen, hallway, bathroom and toilet.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years. There are currently two children aged from two years to under five years on roll.

The childminder regularly takes the children out to visit the local facilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are aware about the importance of hygiene practices because the childminder includes these within the daily routines. They confidently ask the childminder to go to the toilet and the childminder supports them accordingly. However, their independence is hampered as they

are not able to reach the sink to wash their hands. Children play in a home where the resources and equipment are very clean.

Children benefit from the correct procedures in place for dealing with any accidents, administration of medications and illness. The childminder has developed a recording system for these purposes. She has a well stocked first aid box within her easy reach and holds a valid first aid qualification. Parents' written permission to seek any medical treatment and advice are in place to support children's needs in the event of an emergency.

Children are provided with food and drinks as discussed and agreed with their parents. The childminder ensures that meals are home cooked and include a mix of vegetables, meat, rice, pasta and yoghurt. Children are encouraged to have raisins and fruits for snack. The childminder sometimes involves them in drawing up a shopping list before going out to the shops to promote their understanding about healthy food. She ensures their drink needs are provided for throughout the day. However, these are not easily accessible to the children and therefore do not effectively help to promote their independence.

Children's exercise needs are promoted through the daily walks to and from the local facilities and their access to wider outdoor play resources when visiting the parks and drop in centres.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety and security is promoted because the childminder has the safety devices in place to reduce any risks. She ensures that all hazardous items are kept out of children's reach. Children play in an environment that is decorated well, and includes a display of posters with numbers, letters and shapes to make them feel welcome. Their artwork is displayed on the fridge. Children are made aware of the risks around them because the childminder explains about the issues relating to road safety.

Children have access to a wide range of well maintained and safe resources. These are regularly checked and cleaned by the childminder. She ensures that these conform to the required safety standards. Children are protected and safeguarded from any abuse and neglect because the childminder has a secure understanding about child protection issues and the procedures to follow in the event of any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Babies are closely and affectionately cuddled by the childminder to help them settle and make them feel secure. Good eye contact and gestures is made with them to support their early communication skills. For example, the childminder smiles and talks to them very playfully. Older children have established a secure relationship with the childminder. They freely select toys of interest for exploration and play. They know the routines, and are settled and engrossed in activities. The childminder talks about what they are doing and ask children questions to support their thinking and speech. They confidently talk to the childminder about their activities and what they want to do.

There is a wide range of suitable resources available within their easy reach. This supports children's decision making and independence during play. Children are becoming aware of shapes, letters, numbers and colours through the displayed posters and planned practical

activities. There is a selection of dressing up clothes and constructional activities to support their imaginative play. The childminder has a secure knowledge about children's developmental needs, and uses the Birth to three matters framework as a guide to plan younger children's activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are becoming aware of the wider community through regular visit to the local facilities. They also have access to a suitable range of resources that reflect positive images of different cultures within the childminder's home. She involves the children in the celebration of different community festivals. The childminder is committed to supporting the needs of the individual children. She works very closely with their parents, and other professionals when needed to ensure their needs are fully met. Babies are consistently reassured and made to feel secure because the childminder explains what she intends to do and makes sure that they can hear her talk even when she is a little distance from them. Older children show concerns for babies, for example, they take a cushion and put it on the babies' play mat to help them play.

The childminder has clear strategies in place for promoting children's good behaviour. She has a calm, warm approach with the children and is also a good role model. They respond enthusiastically to her gentle and clear guidance. She reminds them to say please and thank you at the appropriate times to support their social skills. They play and behave very well with each other. The childminder is aware about the requirements of the complaints procedure and has developed a recording system for this purpose.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by an established childminder, who has a secure understanding about the National Standards for childminding. She is warm and gentle with the children, which helps to make them feel secure and settled. Although their independence is not so well encouraged during hand washing and by access to drinks, the organisation of the space and play resources supports their individual needs. These resources are appropriate for their age and ability. The childminder ensures children's need for both energetic and quiet play is promoted within daily routines.

Children benefit care from a childminder that maintains the necessary requirements. For example, she meets the adult child ratio. The required records are also accurately kept and up to date. The childminder meets the needs of the children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to include details of children's arrival and departure times within the attendance records. The childminder has since included these details and now has an accurate and up to date children's attendance. This helps to promote children's safety.

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 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):

- improve procedures to support children's independence when washing hands and accessing drinks.

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