

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY283812
Inspection date	26 March 2008
Inspector	Glenda Kathleen Field
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and two in a ground floor flat in Walthamstow, London. The premises are within walking distance of local shops, pre-schools and London Transport. Languages spoken in the home include Arabic, French and English. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. There is currently one child aged under five years on roll who attends on a part-time basis. All areas of the property are used for childminding. The family have no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Waltham Forest Childminding Network. Visits are made with children to the Toy Library, childminder drop-in centres, local parks and shops and children's soft play centres.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is effectively promoted as the childminder seeks clear information from parents regarding their children's individual health care needs and ensures that necessary written consents are in place. The childminder has attended first aid training to ensure she is aware of the correct procedures to follow to maintain children's good health.

Children are learning about the importance of good health and hygiene practices. For example, they are aware of the need to wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. Children are encouraged to be independent when using the ground floor toilet and use individual hand towels to reduce the risk of cross-infection.

Children's individual dietary requirements are well understood and catered for as the childminder obtains detailed information from parents on their children's registration forms. Meals and snacks provided by the childminder feature fresh fruit and vegetables, with the menu being adapted to take account of children's individual dietary needs and preferences.

Children enjoy an excellent range of physical play experiences that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Regular walks to the local parks, woods and shops provide them with plenty of fresh air. Visits are made to the local Toy Library and 'drop-in' centre where children learn to socialise and to develop control of their bodies while using the wheeled toys and climbing equipment. They develop their manipulative skills using a range of equipment, such as mark-making tools and construction kits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where they can move around freely and independently. The childminder's home provides a warm and welcoming environment for children and their parents. The rooms are bright and light and set up for play with toys and resources organised effectively to enable children to choose activities that interest and motivate them.

The childminder has a clear understanding of how to keep children safe and she has taken steps to minimise risks. For example, household cleaning items and medication are stored out of children's reach and all unused electrical sockets are fitted with covers. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, such as road safety being reinforced when on outings and discussion on fire safety.

Children have access to a wide range of high quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. All equipment is checked regularly and replaced as necessary. The childminder monitors and supervises children's play to ensure they are safe and that toys are used appropriately. Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted because the childminder is aware of the signs of abuse and neglect. However, safeguarding children training has not been attended to enable the childminder to be fully aware of the correct procedures to follow if she has a concern. All the necessary documentation, including a child protection statement which is shared with parents, is in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the childminder. They are motivated, eager and actively participate in and enjoy the activities and experiences offered to them. Children are confident and relate very well to each other. The childminder uses her knowledge and understanding of children's developmental needs to plan a wide range of opportunities and activities. Care is taken by the childminder to ensure all resources are appropriate to each child's stage of development and accessible, so that children take a dynamic part in steering their own learning experiences. Children benefit from the childminder's skilled ability to balance her time interacting with children effectively and at appropriate moments, standing back and enabling children to develop their own fun.

Children access a wide range of stimulating activities and experiences both within and away from the childminding setting which support the growth of children's development across all areas. Children are animated and excited when adults present take an interest and listen carefully to what they are saying and join in with them in developing their play. Access to very good resources and interaction from the childminder sustains children's interest and enables them to successfully develop their play.

Children are offered an extensive range of different play experiences and activities on a regular basis which enables them to learn new skills and consolidate existing ones. For example, children attend a variety of child-centred settings away from the childminding premises, such as the Toy Library and 'drop-in' centres. These encourage the development of social and creative skills and a range of physical skills.

Children's behaviour is very good. The childminder encourages children's behaviour and achievements through the use of positive praise and encouragement. This positive praise encourages children to persevere and practise skills. The childminder uses positive language to actively encourage children's enjoyment, pride in their achievements and confidence.

Children develop very good large and small physical skills through planned activities both within and away from the childminding setting. They practise climbing and balancing skills during outdoor play, movement and hand-eye coordination skills during indoor activities, such as craft activities, using construction equipment and cause and effect toys.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and have equal access to all activities and experiences offered which are stimulating and age-appropriate. Children play cooperatively together sharing and taking turns with activities and equipment developing an understanding of others and differences. Children access a good range of multicultural resources that help them understand diversity. For example, dolls and books are representative of our multicultural society and play people represent people with disabilities. Children experience the wider community as they go for walks, visit local parks, libraries and other places of interest. The childminder's written equal opportunities policy and practice ensures children's equality of opportunity. The childminder ensures that all children's individual needs are known, enabling the planning and adapting of care accordingly to meet their individual needs.

The childminder has a very positive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those with English as a second language. She works closely with parents and other professionals to ensure all children are included and their specific needs are met.

Children are very happy and content in their play which is seen as they play happily together and chat with one another, the childminder and inspector. Children's self-confidence is evident and is very well promoted as they receive lots of positive praise and encouragement from the childminder resulting in their enjoyment and contentment. Children are very well behaved because the childminder is clear about the need to promote children's positive behaviour and self-esteem. A comprehensive written behaviour management policy which clearly identifies strategies used to promote positive behaviour is in place and shared with parents and carers.

Children benefit greatly from the excellent communication between the childminder and parents and carers. Children's individual needs and requirements are discussed carefully and in detail with parents and carers prior to placement and on an ongoing basis as they develop new skills and achieve milestones in their development. Successful relationships with parents and carers support the children's development very well. Observations relating to the children's day, development and general well-being are fed back to parents and carers informally as they collect their children at the end of their minded day. The childminder also completes a daily record sheet for babies and young children which is shared with parents. Parents and carers have access to extremely comprehensive information on what the childminder has to offer, her conditions of registration, information about Ofsted and records kept.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for within a very well-planned and organised environment. The childminder is very clear about her role and responsibilities in providing a high quality service to the children and their families. All adults living on the premises are checked for suitability, reassuring parents and keeping children safe. The childminder is aware of the need to inform Ofsted of any changes relating to her registration.

Children access toys, equipment and activities which are planned and prepared prior to the children arriving enabling children to feel welcome, confident and happy. Children confidently access and are involved in a range of interesting and age-appropriate activities both within and away from the childminding setting. The childminder has attended training to support her registration, and shows a continuing commitment to undertake appropriate training to enhance her existing good practice, enabling her to provide high quality childcare.

The childminder has a high regard for the well-being of all the children in her care. Children benefit from her effective organisation of time, space and resources and the balanced range of activities provided to promote their care, learning and play. The childminder is meticulous in maintaining all the required documentation and consents to support the care and welfare of children. Records are stored securely and the childminder has a high regard for issues of confidentiality. The childminder has compiled a comprehensive operational folder containing detailed information about her provision to promote children's good health, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required Ofsted or the provider 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 knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

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