

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160107
Inspection date	08 October 2007
Inspector	Julia Louise Crowley

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 2000. She lives with her husband and two daughters aged nine and seven years old in Enfield within the London borough of Enfield. The whole house apart from the master bedroom of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a cat and two rabbits.

The childminder is a member National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children successfully stay healthy because the childminder follows effective health and hygiene guidelines for example, toys and equipment are checked for cleanliness and safety before children can use them and all surfaces are cleaned with anti bacterial spray. Children have a good understanding of simple good health and hygiene practices because the childminder supports and explains to children about how best to prevent the spread of germs such as children are encouraged to wash their hands after playing, eating and toileting and to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze.

Children enjoy snacks and meals in a relaxed social setting where they are given the choice of a range of foods such as vegetarian burgers with salad, pasta with homemade tomatoes and basil sauce. They are encouraged to experiment, for example, children enjoy a fruit platter consisting of a wide range of fruits which are cut into child friendly pieces, this enables children to learn about healthy foods. However, opportunities for older children to independently serve their own drinks are not always available.

Children are given regular opportunities to participate in energetic physical activity in fresh air, either by going to the park or playing in the garden. The childminder offers the children innovative ideas and activities that offer them the opportunity to learn about how their bodies work and keep their bodies healthy for example, an organised summer sports day in the park consisting of football, skipping, an egg and spoon race and sack race.

The childminder has a first aid certificate and implement procedures such as the recording of accidents and administration of medication appropriately to maintain good health and consistency of care. Children's individual health and dietary needs are appropriately recorded and that and parents wishes are followed carefully.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where children's creative works and photographs are attractively displayed on notice boards. Parents are encouraged to gain information from a well organised and informative notice board in the entrance of the childminders house consequently they are well informed.

Toys and equipment are regularly checked to ensure that everything is clean and safe enabling children to select from appropriate toys and activities. Children learn to keep themselves safe because the childminder talks to children on a daily basis about safety issues such as carefully cutting when using dough and care when playing in the paddling pool this enables children to effectively take an increased responsibility for their own safety. The childminder successfully risk assesses children during activities and uses her knowledge of the children to anticipate and prevent accidents.

Children are kept safe on trips and outings. The childminder ensures children are appropriately restrained when using the car. The youngest children are secured appropriately in a buggy and the older children understand they must hold the childminder's hand or onto the side of the buggy when walking.

The children's well being is promoted as the childminder is confident of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care. She has a clear policy in place that informs parents of her responsibilities to prioritise the children's welfare, enabling her to act in the child's best interests if she has concerns about their care.,

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have excellent accessibility to a suitable range of resources for example, home corner, water tray with leafs and mini beasts, creative materials and a wide range of books. The childminder successfully encourages and nurtures children's growing independence through providing a variety of appropriate toys, equipment and activities in a safe and supportive environment consequently children develop confidence and self esteem.

Children are interested in what they do for example, they talk enthusiastically about the sunflowers in the garden that they have grown. The childminder ensures that the correct tools are accessible for the task such as spades, seed packets and watering cans. The children learn as they discuss what they need to do to successfully make the sunflowers grow.

Children ask questions and are confident that the childminder will respond. She is sensitive to their individual characters and extremely attentive to their needs for example, younger children babble enthusiastically to the childminder knowing that she will respond with happy gestures and words. The childminder increase children's competence in language by encouraging them to handle books, reading stories to children and helping them recognise words in print. Children are given opportunities to learn nursery rhymes and action songs at the childminders home or at local groups.

The childminder carefully observes children's interests and areas of development, so that activities can be revisited and activity plans adapted so that children's changing needs are provided for. Children respond exceedingly well to challenges such as introducing a complex floor puzzle, they work together with the childminder to achieve the goal. Children begin to successfully distinguish between right and wrong as the childminder sets clear and consistent boundaries and models appropriate behaviour to the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are well cared for by the childminder who equally values and treats each child according to their individual needs for example, children's profiles are always up dated with their changing likes and dislikes and time is taken to talk with the children on a daily basis so that the childminder is well informed. Children feel strong sense of belonging because the childminder includes them in her home for example, each child has a coat peg in the hallway with symbols and name, photographs and examples of the children work are displayed in the main play area.

Children have an excellent understanding of responsible behaviour. They are encouraged to listen to adults and each other and practise their skills of negotiation, for example children share ingredients and equipment when they work together to make bread. Children are supported in working with their frustrations in a positive way by talking about emotions and having them accepted and acknowledged for example, the childminder uses books and stories to help children understand feelings and special events.

Children develop self esteem and respect for others as they enthusiastically help with daily routine for example, setting the table for meals and tidying toys away. Children acknowledge each other as they share the tasks and offer plenty of 'please' and 'thank you' as they co operate together.

Children become aware of the wider society because the childminder offers excellent resources that offer positive representation of diversity for example, dressing up clothes, cooking utensils, books, puzzles and posters. Festivals of all cultures are celebrated and children enjoy producing creative cards and items that support the story or message.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's good organisation of the premises providing them with sufficient space to play and access resources. Children feel at home and at ease, daily routines provide children with opportunities to rest and relax as well as be busy and actively occupied.

The childminder successfully ensures that her first aid training is kept current and has also attended a number of child care courses and workshops to extend her knowledge and improve her practice for example, child protection, Makaton and managing behaviour.

Policies and procedures are organised effectively to promote welfare, care and learning of children. Children's information is made available to their parents, which encourages progress and support for the child. This also contributes to continuity in the child's care. Children are safeguarded as all other adults in the home have undergone checks to assess their suitability and there is an accurate record of children's attendances.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

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):

- provide further opportunities to develop independence for older children by providing independent access to drinks throughout the day

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