

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	127977
Inspection date	17 January 2008
Inspector	Rufia Uddin
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 March 1992. She lives with one adult son. They live in a three bedroom house, situated in a residential area of Ilford within walking distance of the park, local shops and amenities, in the London borough of Redbridge. The downstairs is being used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for children to play.

The family have no pets.

There are currently five children on roll. 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 are cared for in a warm, clean childminding home. Children are encouraged to develop good hygiene practice through their daily routine. They are able to access the toilet independently and they have clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after

using the toilet as this reduces the risk of passing on germs. However, although the childminder has an understanding of first aid procedures, her first aid certificate has expired. Furthermore written parental consent is not in place for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice. Consequently children's health is not fully assured in an emergency medical situation.

Children are encouraged to learn about healthy living through the healthy option menu. Children are well nourished and are offered freshly cooked broccoli and carrots with their meal. The children are offered drinks throughout the day. Children's independence skills are developing at mealtimes. The younger children are encouraged to feed themselves and occasionally helped. The childminder takes into account any special dietary needs and respects parent's wishes.

Children enjoy playing outside in the garden. They enjoy the physical activities and develop control of their bodies through activities such as jumping on the trampoline, using swings and slides, and riding on wheeled toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious well organised environment. There are areas for children to rest and play. They can move around in comfort and ease. Children are able to select from the range of good quality toys in the play room; they have been arranged to be accessible and make a stimulating environment.

Risks have been identified and strategies have been put into place to minimise them, children are able to explore the surroundings safely.

The children were well settled and comfortable in their surroundings, having the confidence to move freely around the premises while playing, as a result of good supervision. Children mostly use the lounge and the hall for their activities. Children know the procedure to follow if there is a fire and practise this with the childminder at regular intervals.

Children's welfare and wellbeing is safeguarded as the childminder has knowledge of her role and responsibilities, and recognises possible signs and symptoms that may cause concern and indicate that a child may be at risk. The childminder is aware of procedures to follow should she have concerns relating to child protection, and knows the records and details to be kept.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities that are stimulating and well balanced for all ages. A good balance of adult and child initiated games helps children to make progress and enjoy themselves. Good quality, stimulating toys provide choice and challenges. Children settle well at the childminders home. The childminder responds to the children and initiates looking at books and singing with them. Children's independence is fostered as they can choose between a variety of toys, books and appropriate activities.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft, role play, music and rhyme. Children are interested in toys available and spend time concentrating on self chosen activities. Children are interested and engaged in the planned activity of drawing and colouring. Children's social skills are developed through regular attendance at the local parks, schools and shops. Children actively engage in exploration with

paint and represent their experiences, ideas, and feelings in a variety of ways. Children relate well to the childminder. They confidently approach the childminder for support indicating good trusting relationships.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and self-assured. They develop a sense of belonging as they make their own decisions about their play. They are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder encourages children to recognise that they have different interests and needs. Children make visits to local facilities such as the schools, parks, and shops. They learn about their local environment and community. There is a satisfactory range of resources reflecting positive images of diversity.

The childminder has no experience of caring for children with disabilities or special needs, but demonstrated a positive attitude. She is aware of the importance of working closely with parents, would ask parents for a routine of care, and discuss issues with professionals involved in the child's care.

Children are well behaved. The childminder acts as a positive role model, and children are encouraged to participate in routines, for example, tidying up their toys before starting a new activity. This encourages their independence and self-help skills. Children benefit from the childminder's friendly and professional relationship with parents. Initial meetings with parents are in place to ensure there is a time to clarify expectations and ensure that a partnership can be established that will benefit and promote the welfare of the children. The childminder verbally shares information with parents to keep them informed about the service and their child's activities. Parents are advised about the procedure to follow should they wish to make a complaint about the setting and a complaints log has been introduced.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel happy and confident. The childminder has created a child-centred environment in which she offers ample support to the children to support their learning and play. She works to a daily routine around play, sleep, rest times, school drop-offs, and collections and outings. The childminder verbally shares information with parents to keep them informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

The childminder is developing her knowledge and understanding of good childcare practice by attending relevant training courses such as 'Child Protection Awareness', 'Inclusive Practice' and 'Food and Hygiene'.

Although the childminder has a fairly good knowledge of first aid procedures, she has not yet updated her first aid certification to reinforce that knowledge.

The childminder uses a range of written records which are organised and appropriately stored with an awareness of confidentiality. They are generally effective in supporting the childminding business but aspects have been overlooked as there is no written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

In the last childcare inspection the childminder was asked to ensure a fire blanket is accessible in the kitchen and to keep records of fire drills indicating the time, evacuation period, and number of children in the premises.

She was also asked to ensure that daily attendance records are clear and contain times of arrival and departure, and to provide a wider range of provision within the home that reflects positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.

The childminder has obtained a fire blanket which is accessible in the kitchen and she has introduced a system to keep records of fire drills indicating the time, evacuation period, and number of children in the premises. Records of children's attendance are in place, these include the child's full names and the exact times children are in the childminder's care, ensuring all are protected should a child protection issue arise. In the last childcare inspection the childminder was also asked to provide a wider range of provision within the home that reflects positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. The childminder has obtained some books, puzzles and dressing up clothes to reflect positive images, and these are used in activities that help meet the developmental needs of young children.

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

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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):

- obtain written parental consent for children to seek emergency medical treatment or advice
- continue to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- update first aid certificate.

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