

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY265290
Inspection date	01 November 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool
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 was registered in 2003. She lives, with her 14 year old daughter and 17 year old son, in the Higham Hill area of the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole of the ground floor and the master bedroom is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under eight for before and after school. She also cares for older children. The childminder drives or walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler groups and takes children to the library and park.

The childminder is currently working towards an accreditation with the Waltham Forest Childminding Network, and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children understand the importance of personal hygiene through the daily routines and written reminders placed in the hallway. For example, children know to wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. Clear signs in the hallway remind them to remove their shoes when walking up the stairs to visit the toilet. In addition to this, the childminder provides children with anti-bacterial soap for hand washing and ensures that there is fresh bedding available for in the event that children would like to rest or sleep. There are acceptable methods in place for dealing with sick children. These procedures help to reduce the risks of the spread of germs or infection to children. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and has a fully stocked first aid box. This ensures that children can receive appropriate care in the event of sustaining minor injuries. Although the childminder is aware of children's allergies or medical needs, she has not obtained parental consent for emergency medical treatment.

Children benefit from a healthy diet as they are provided with nutritious and varied breakfast, snacks or evening meals each day. This includes cereals, pasta dishes, vegetables and fresh fruits. All meals provided comply with their dietary requirements. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices as they help to plan the weekly menu and prepare their sandwiches for snacks. Children have sufficient opportunities to develop their physical skills as they visit the local park and use a range of play equipment such as slides and swings. They also access the garden and play outdoors in the fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to work and play on the ground floor and there is a first floor bedroom available for rest or sleep. A section of the kitchen is appropriately organised in order that children can eat in comfort; access toys and equipment and play creatively. Children are kept securely as there are high locks on the front door and the gate at the rear of the garden to prevent children from leaving the premises unsupervised. There are suitable measures in place for fire safety. For example, exit routes are clearly labelled; smoke alarms are maintained and a fire blanket is in place. There are appropriate procedures in place for when taking children out on trips. The childminder helps children to learn to keep themselves safe through discussions about how to use eating utensils properly, road safety and gentle reminders about not talking to strangers when out on visits. In spite of these precautions, the easily accessible bathroom light cord can pose a risk to children's safety.

Children have safe and easy access to a range of toys that are stored in labelled crates in low level cupboards. The organisation of resources helps to promote children's independence and enable them to make choices about their play. All toys and resources are developmentally appropriate, in a reasonable condition and conform to safety standards. Also available are a number of colourful posters on display in the lounge and kitchen area, all of which help to promote children's learning. The welfare of children is appropriately safeguarded as the childminder has satisfactory knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and the signs and symptoms of abuse. She is aware her responsibilities with regards to recording and reporting incidents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and confident in the childminder's care. The children relate well to each other and to the childminder; asking questions, responding to comments and talking freely about their day. The childminder provides children with a wide range of activities when collected from school. Available are polishing materials and baby size shoes. This is beneficial by way of enabling children to develop self help skills. In addition to this, children help with planning the weekly menu and prepare their snacks each day. Children's activities are generally planned on a weekly basis. Their progress is closely monitored as the childminder observes them at play and provides support to promote their learning.

The childminder provides lots of opportunities to support children's understanding of mathematical concepts. For example, pretend play such as buying and selling of food help children to recognise the value of money; games such as ludo, snakes and ladders and an African board game where the use of counters enable children to broaden their counting skills. Children have access to a range of writing tools and materials, which helps to develop their writing abilities. Discussions, card games and the introduction of new words help to support children's communication and language skills. In addition to this, the childminder shows children how to find and spell words using a dictionary.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident, independent and able to make choices about their meals, play and the available resources. This is because the childminder recognises children's preferences, interests and abilities. Children learn about themselves and their own capabilities as they help to plan the menu and prepare their snacks. They benefit from praise and encouragement, which helps to promote their self esteem. Written ground rules are on wall display and discussed with the children. This enables them to understand right from wrong. Children are becoming aware of similarities and differences within their community as they have access to an adequate range of resources such as books and dolls and through some discussions about different cultural festivities.

Children's sense of security is supported because the childminder develops positive working relationships with parents. She obtains detailed information from parents about each child and has got most appropriate consents from them. The childminder is aware of the practice for dealing with complaints and she ensures that all parents are kept informed of the procedures to follow if they wish to make a complaint. Regular informal discussions with parents ensure continuity of care for children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are secure and comfortable in the childminder's home. The appropriate use of space and the organisation of the environment enable children to have freedom of movement, easy access to resources and develop independence skills. This means that children can initiate their own play. The childminder provides an interesting range of activities for children, which helps to promote their learning. There are some useful methods in place for promoting safety and some gentle reminders and simple discussions help children to learn how to keep themselves safe. On the whole, children are generally kept safe. Daily routines and suitable practices for

dealing with sick and injured children help to maintain their health; however, not all relevant consents have been obtained.

The childminder has sound knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and this is evident in her written procedures and practices. She is aware of her responsibilities for safeguarding children; the procedures for the notification of significant events and for the retention of records. The childminder attends training when she can. This helps to support children's care and learning. All documents that promote the care and welfare of children are kept secure, confidential and maintained. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to complete an appropriate first aid course for infants and young children and develop systems for carrying out observations of children's progress.

The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and as a result of this, she is able to treat children with minor injuries. Children's progress is closely monitored as the childminder observes them at play and informally shares information with parents. In addition to this, the childminder encourages older children to talk about their experiences of play and activities with their parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain parental consent for urgent medical treatment or advice
- ensure the bathroom light cord is inaccessible to children.

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