

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY276865
Inspection date	22 October 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 partner and his son aged 15 years in the area of Walthamstow within the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole of the ground floor and the third bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years. The childminder attends the local toddler groups. She is a member of the National childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn the benefits of a healthy diet as they are provided with a variety of nutritious snacks on a daily basis. They receive a range of fresh and dried fruits such as apple, bananas, raisins and apricot. In addition to this, children are also offered rice cakes, celery and carrots. Children are well nourished as their parents supply ready made meals from home. On

occasions the childminder supplements this by offering children vegetable sticks, hummus and brown bread if they ask for food later on in the day. Fresh drinking water is always available to children.

Children's health is maintained by the childminder's knowledge of first aid and the appropriate procedures in place for dealing with sick and injured children. A fully stocked first aid box is available and there are systems in place for recording accidents and medication administered to children. Although the childminder obtained consent prior to administering any medication, there is no consent for in the event of urgent medical treatment. There are opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. For example, babies are given support and encouragement to stand unaided. Regular trips to the park; ball games and the use of mini climbing frames enable children to gain confidence and acquire new skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept in a secure environment. They have ample space to play and can move freely between the front and back rooms on the ground floor. The stairs are restricted to reduce the risks of falls and the kitchen area is generally out of bounds to children apart from when it is used to access the outdoor area. There are suitable measures in place to promote children's safety such as fire equipment, safety locks on low level drawers and electrical socket covers. However, a rusty bin, loose bricks and berries are accessible to children when out in the garden. Also accessible is a glass table and items that are placed in a stacked position that can fall on a child.

Children choose from a selection of toys that are age and developmentally appropriate; all are stored at levels that they can reach. There is an appropriate range of equipment for the developmental needs and comfort of young children and all are in good condition and conform to safety standards. Children's welfare is supported because the childminder is clear about the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what to do if she has any concerns about any child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled because the childminder is welcoming and responds warmly, which helps them to develop self-confidence and assurance. In addition to this, she values and appreciates their individuality and works with parents to develop a secure knowledge of each child. All children are developing trusting relationships because the childminder ensures that their parents say goodbye when they are leaving the children in her care. The day is well organised and consists of opportunities for quiet activities, active play and visits to toddler groups or park. In spite of this, there are flexibility within the routine as younger children rest and sleep according to their needs.

Children's communication and languages skills are well promoted through a good range of activities and support. For example, young children are able to demonstrate their enjoyment of simple action and rhyme songs as they move their body and hands when listening to 'wind the bobbin up' and 'the wheels on the bus'. Young children use facial expressions, hand gestures and can say one word to communicate their meaning. They are provided with many opportunities to develop their hand and eye coordination through a variety of toys such as activity sets and bead frames, where they press buttons to see the movement of objects and use their fingers

to move beads along a wired frame. Children are developing social skills as they very regularly attend toddler groups; playing alongside other children in a group setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are known and met by the childminder. This is because expectations are agreed from the outset and she obtains detailed information and most relevant consents from parents about their child. As a result of this, the childminder is able to provide appropriate care for children. The daily formal and informal sharing of information between the childminder and parent about children's general well-being and activities helps to promote continuity of care. The childminder acknowledges parents different values and approach to child care and ensures that they are informed of practices including the procedures for complaints.

Children benefit from lots of praise, encouragement and support. All of which, helps to develop children's self esteem. Appropriate strategies, according to the age and stage of children's development help them to understand what is right and wrong. For example, simple explanation and distraction. Children come from different backgrounds and their different abilities and developmental needs are acknowledged and valued. They are helped to become aware of differences as they play alongside each other; the contact they make when mixing with other children in a larger group situation and through resources such as books, dolls and play people that reflect positive images of race, culture and disability.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from daily routines that enable them to feel secure, comfortable and develop independence within the childminder's home. Regular visits to the community help to promote their physical and social development. The positive relationship between the childminder and parents promotes consistency of care. An appropriate range of activities ensures that children experience a variety of play opportunities both indoors and when out on trips. Children's health is generally promoted through the day to day practises; however, not all health consents are obtained. Children are reasonably kept safe as suitable measures are in place. In spite of this, some potential hazards have been identified.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the National Standards. She is clear about her responsibilities to protect children from harm and also the procedures for notification and the retention of most records. Overall, the childminder has some awareness of the procedures for dealing with complaints, which includes keeping a record, responding to complaints within the required time and making records available to Ofsted. However, she is not fully clear about the recording of complaints. Necessary documents for the safe management of children are in place and accurately maintained. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, an action was raised for the childminder to maintain all required records that relate to childcare activities and to ensure that these are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

The childminder ensures that written agreements are in place in order to meet the individual needs of children. There are also appropriate systems in place for keeping records of accidents and the administering of medication to children which, includes a request for parents to countersign each entry to confirm notification. This ensures all relevant information is shared with parents. The childminder is clear about her responsibilities for making sure that records are readily accessible and available for inspection in order to confirm that the welfare of children is promoted at all times.

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 seeking urgent medical advice or treatment
- conduct risk assessments indoors and outdoors and take steps to improve children's safety
- further develop own knowledge of the procedures for dealing with complaints.

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