

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	128287
Inspection date	16 November 2007
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 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 1996. She lives with her 13 year old son. They live in a house in a quiet residential area close to the local schools and within walking distance of the local shops and park in the London borough of Redbridge. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding.

There are currently three 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 good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. They are healthy because the childminder uses effective health and hygiene procedures to promote children's hygiene, for example, she wears disposable gloves when changing nappies, disinfects the changing mat afterwards and disposes of nappies appropriately. She washes her hands using soap after nappy changing, despite wearing gloves,

and before handling food. Children's health is promoted because the childminder has up to date relevant first aid training and deals with accidents, recording and sharing this information with parents. She obtains written details relating to children's individual health and dietary requirements and obtains written parental consent for children to receive emergency medical treatment, which helps to ensure their health is not compromised in an emergency situation.

Children enjoy healthy snacks, such as oranges and bananas, and develop independence as they learn to feed themselves. The childminder provides children with a wide variety of healthy balanced meals and shares menus with parents. Children benefit from regular physical activities helping to increase their awareness of the importance of exercise as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They engage in a range of indoor physical activities, for example, dancing to music and riding bikes. Their physical skills are further developed through use of equipment at local carer and toddler groups and they have opportunities for fresh air on trips to the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe and secure home where most risks are identified and minimised. The childminder's daily checks of her home and her good supervision of children help to ensure they are protected from harm. Children learn how to take care of themselves through daily routines, for example, the childminder talks to children about where it is safe to cross roads when on outings. Children have sufficient room to play, a quiet place to rest and a comfortable area to enjoy meals. Appropriate safety measures are in place to protect children, including stair gates, cupboard locks and plug socket covers. Appropriate fire safety equipment, such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket are available. Children know the procedure to follow if there was a fire and practise this with the childminder at regular intervals. The garden is not safe for children to use as there are some metal pipes and building materials.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children's welfare and wellbeing are safeguarded as the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection recording and reporting procedures. She makes all parents aware of her role and keeps accurate records of attendance and details related to who can collect children. This contributes to ensuring children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled, comfortable and confidently engage in their chosen activities, both in sole play and with the childminder. A varied range of resources are organised so that children are able to access them independently. Children play with a wide range of familiar activities and the childminder offers opportunities for them to acquire new skills and knowledge as they become involved in reading and drawing. Children benefit from frequent opportunities to be creative. They draw with crayons, pencils and chalk and build with construction toys. Children are involved in developmentally appropriate activities. The childminder encourages children's communication skills by talking to children and naming the toys they are using as they play. Children choose books from the low shelves and the childminder reads to them letting them participate by turning pages. Children have opportunities to be imaginative and creative using a range of construction materials and imaginative toys, such as dolls and tea sets, to express

their real and imagined ideas. Their social skills are developed through regular attendance at the local parent and toddler group, parks and shops.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are met well as the childminder follows their daily routine as discussed with their parents. The childminder has a sound understanding of how to support children with learning difficulties/disabilities. She is aware of the importance of working closely with parents and would ask parents for a routine of care and discuss issues with professionals involved in the child's care. Children's behaviour is good as the childminder manages children's behaviour sensitively, helping them to learn to take turns and share fairly. Good manners are encouraged, children respond well to gentle reminders to say 'please' and 'thank you'.

Children benefit from a secure informal relationship between the childminder and their parents enabling them to settle well and feel self assured. Parents are given information about the childminder's provision. They have contracts which set out clearly the different aspects of what the childminder provides, for example, regarding meals, sickness and holidays. The childminder records information about children's needs and contact information. She shares verbal information with parents on a daily basis to keep them well informed about their child's day including details about what they have eaten, activities they have been involved in on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit because the childminder is well organised and plans each day according to the needs of the individual children in her care. They have warm trusting relationships with the childminder and are settled and secure in her care. Children attend a range of groups including parent and toddler groups on a regular basis, where they meet up with other childminder's and socialise with their peers. This has a positive impact on the relationships children build. They benefit from her commitment to working in partnership with parents to ensure she knows them well as individuals and their care is consistent.

Good record keeping takes place. Records are easily retrievable, with a range of written policies and procedures in place which all parents are aware of. All relevant information is recorded in children's record forms which are suitably stored in a confidential manner. Registers are up to date and contain children's hours of attendance. Children benefit because the childminder has many years experience of looking after young children and regularly updates her skills and knowledge by attending regular training.

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 develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She was also asked to develop knowledge and understanding of children with special educational needs and to introduce a system to record complaints.

The childminder has attended a training course on child protection awareness and as result she is confident in her ability to deal with any child protection concerns. Children's well-being is protected by the childminder's improved knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

She has attended a training course and has obtained some play resources that reflect positive images of different groups in society and disability that help meet the developmental needs of young children.

The childminder has introduced a system to maintain an accurate record of complaints to promote good partnership with parents.

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 to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they must 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):

- continue to improve existing safety procedures by ensuring that the garden 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