

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	128303
Inspection date	14 December 2007
Inspector	Angela Jackson
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 1996. She lives with her two children aged seventeen and seven in South Woodford in the London borough of Redbridge. The whole of the ground floor 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 of five years, before and after school. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in the light, warm and comfortable home that is cleaned and made ready for them whilst they are at school. They are encouraged to keep themselves healthy by practising good personal hygiene routines such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating. In the event of an accident or emergency, children have immediate access to treatment

as the childminder has an up to date first aid qualification and a well stocked, easily accessible first aid kit. There is no delay in seeking treatment for serious injuries as parents give permission for taking children to hospital where they may be treated by a medical professional. Accidents are properly recorded and entries signed by parents. Children who are unwell are kept at home to minimise the risk of cross infection and medicines are not administered without prior permission from parents. When medicine is given, parents are asked to sign the medication book to acknowledge this.

Freshly cooked, nutritious food that takes into account individual needs and preferences, is prepared each day. Children tuck into generous portions of foods such as pasta with vegetables, followed by yogurt and fruit. The childminder has a good understanding of the foods children need to keep healthy and encourages them to eat vegetables by preparing them in ways they find attractive and appealing. Children with food intolerances or allergies benefit from the childminder's knowledge of a wide range of alternatives such as rice milk instead of dairy. The alternatives are very often given to all children and accepted as natural options. This increases children's understanding of the needs of others and ensures all children feel included. To prevent dehydration, drinks of water are frequently offered as well as fruit drinks such as Ribena.

The daily walk to and from school ensures children have some form of exercise in the fresh air, regardless of the weather or time of year. On fine days they play in the garden with skipping ropes to help develop coordination skills and in winter they gently romp about together on the floor of the back living room.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

There are established arrangements in place to introduce children to the childminder and her family. Parents are invited to stay with children initially and to gradually leave them alone with her for longer periods until children are confident and settled. They learn about the daily routines, where the toys are kept and how to access them and rules for keeping themselves safe; for example they recognise that they should not open the front door 'in case there are strangers there' and that if they run out in the street they 'might get run over'. The childminder has sound regard for children's safety. She has installed smoke alarms and a fire blanket and recently carried out a practice of the emergency evacuation procedures to ensure children recognised the sound of the alarm and the exits they would use if there was a fire. The home is organised so that children have sufficient space to freely move around. They go upstairs only to use the toilet or to collect the toys that they want to play with downstairs. When out, children walk close to the childminder and learn about road safety through discussion as there are no roads to cross on the way to and from school.

Children are further safeguarded through the childminder's good understanding and knowledge of child protection issues. She is a registered foster carer and therefore receives regular training in recognising the signs of abuse, how to monitor and record concerns and when and how to make a referral.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

On arriving home from a busy day at school, children usually spend a short time relaxing quietly. At this time they may watch a favourite television programme such as 'Horrid Henry' as they

sit and unwind on the sofa. Once their meal is ready however, the television is switched off, they set up the table to sit and eat their dinner as they chat with the childminder. This provides a good opportunity for children to develop good social skills and to discuss their feelings about what they have seen or done during the day. Having eaten, children participate in a variety of activities such as imaginative role play games with dolls and prams, acting out scenes from Ninja Turtles or doing puzzles and drawings. They enjoy playing schools with children taking the part of teacher while they all sit and practise spellings. During this time, the childminder supports individual learning through helping with homework such as reading the book brought home that day from school. The balance of activities is good. Children have appropriate times for rest and play and are effectively challenged to develop skills being taught at school.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder is committed to providing a fully inclusive provision where all children are valued and where discriminatory or derogatory remarks are not tolerated. Children benefit from the support she gives them to learn about other faiths and cultures and about disability and how it affects others. This is done through discussion and explanation about school projects and by looking at books and stories that reflect positive images of difference. The childminder has a good understanding of a wide range of special needs and is experienced in supporting children with learning difficulties or disabilities. She works with parents to ensure their views are taken into account and that children are cared for in the way that best meets individual needs. Parents are provided with regular informal feedback and are pleased with the level of care provided as children are 'very happy'.

Children are well behaved. They share toys, take turns in games and help each other, such as in learning to spell out words or add up numbers. Children respond to the childminder's positive strategies for promoting good behaviour. She uses praise, 'you have done exceptionally well', to help children to feel good about themselves and gets them to think about what is right and wrong as they discuss incidents they have witnessed or heard about.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to continue her professional development; for example, she is currently undergoing training and working towards a level 3 qualification in childcare. Her home is suitably organised to allow children free access to toys and resources and there is sufficient floor space for them to play in comfort and safety. The childminder has not met the requirements of the National Standards as she has not had suitability checks carried out on all members of the household over the age of 16. However, she ensures children are supervised by her at all times. Most policies and documents are in place and are clearly written. They are well organised and stored with sound regard for confidentiality. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

As recommended at the last inspection, the childminder completed an appropriate first aid course in 2006 and has permissions from parents for seeking emergency medical treatment for 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

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):

- ensure Ofsted is kept up to date about any changes to persons over the age of 16 living in the household
- ensure children are supervised at all times and not left alone with unchecked persons over the age of 16

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