

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	132417
Inspection date	03 March 2008
Inspector	Mary Holt
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since December 1999, she lives with her husband, her adult son, her adult nephew and his wife and their 10 month old baby. The family live in a five bedroom town house in a residential area of Beckton, which is within the London borough of Newham. The premises are within easy walking distance of local schools, shops, parks, community resources and public transport.

Although the whole of the property is registered, childminding mainly takes place on the ground floor and first floor areas. A fully enclosed garden is available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of one child aged under eight years, she is currently caring for one child aged two years old on a full time basis, three days a week.

The family have a pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Appropriate nappy changing routines for children are in place. The childminder cleanses the changing mat in between uses and washes her hands afterwards to reduce the risk of cross infection. This encourages children to learn about the importance of personal hygiene and to promote the good health of children within her daily practice. Areas where children sleep, play and eat are cleansed appropriately.

The childminder has not kept her first aid training current to ensure her knowledge of first aid procedures are up to date. Neither does she keep an appropriately stocked first aid box. This compromises children safety and well-being to ensure that swift and appropriate action is taken in the event of an accident taking place. Accident records are maintained and signed by parents to make sure that important information about children's care is shared.

Children's nutritional needs are met appropriately. Their menus include freshly prepared meals, which includes fresh fruit and vegetables being offered each day to encourage healthy eating. Children enjoy snacks of chopped apples and grapes. Parents are consulted about children's cultural and religious observances, as well as their likes and dislikes, to ensure children's individual dietary requirements are met. Children are offered drinks regularly throughout the day. Their cups are easily accessible so they can help themselves to drinks as and when they want them.

Children have regular opportunities to enjoy physical activities that allow them to be active and further develop their physical skills. They enjoy going for regular walks to the local shops and using the slide, swings and climbing frame at the local park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder's fire safety arrangements are unsatisfactory. Although she provides a fire blanket in the kitchen and smoke alarms on all floors, the first floor smoke alarm has been bleeping for the past two weeks as the battery has not been replaced. This could delay the childminder being alerted to a fire starting upstairs and evacuating children quickly in an emergency.

The childminder supervises children well and this helps to protect them from harm. They have ample room to play, a quiet place to rest and an appropriate area to have their meals. Suitable equipment is provided to keep children safe. This includes a stair gate located at the foot of all flights of stairs to prevent them from accessing areas of the house not used for childminding.

Children have access to a suitable range of age appropriate play resources. These are stored in a box in the first floor lounge to enable easy access. The childminder checks her toys regularly to ensure there are no broken parts.

Children's well-being is protected when they are outdoors. Young children are secured appropriately in a buggy. The childminder talks to children about road safety and ensures they know that the 'green man' means it is safe to cross at the pedestrian crossing.

Suitable child protection arrangements are in place to safeguard children. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the local child protection procedures and how to implement these if she has concerns about a child's welfare. However, the childminder's vetting procedures does not ensure that adults living in her home are suitable to have access to children.

The childminder states that minded children are never left with alone with unvetted adults.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's settling in procedures work well. Children are settled gradually into her care to ensure they and their family get to know her well before the placement begins formally. Consequently children have warm, secure relationships with her and confidently make themselves at home.

Children have access to a suitable range of play resources. These are organised in a plastic box and easily accessible, so children can choose and find the toys they need. The childminder plans a flexible childminding day that best meets the individual needs of the children cared for, they go shopping locally, go to the library for story time, visit the park to play on the swings, slide and the climbing frame.

Children also practise their early mathematical skills as they count building bricks and learn to name colours as they build a tower together. The childminder encourages young children's language development well. She teaches them action songs and rhymes, listens patiently to what they say and talks to them about what they are doing.

The childminder reads to children. They snuggle up to her and enjoy listening to stories and talking about the pictures. This encourages their interest in the written word, shows them how to handle books carefully and promotes their very early pre-reading skills.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child development. She is skilled at questioning children to help them learn. Praise is used frequently to build children's self-esteem and encourage them to persevere with new tasks, such as building a tall tower of bricks before it topples and falls. Children are happy, secure, keen to learn and receive good support to develop new skills while they play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is keen to work in partnership with parents and ensure children's care is consistent. She shares information and discusses children's progress with parents each day. The childminder displays useful information about her childminding service, such as her childminding registration certificate. However, she does have a system in place for the recording of complaints.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder liaises with parents regularly to ensure that children's routines established at home are followed, for example, when they sleep and what they eat. Children are encouraged to make choices, for example, choose which fruit snack and drink they would like. They also confidently and independently help themselves to play resources, however, there are no play materials and books that positively reflect the wider world.

The childminder is a good role model. She treats children with care and respect and helps them to learn to be patient and kind to others around them. Children are helped to feel good about themselves as the childminder uses praise to reward children's efforts and achievements, such as learning to say a new word and helping to put the toys away. Children generally behave well and benefit from the childminder's patient and consistent management of their behaviour.

Children enjoy activities outside the childminder's home. They explore their local community as they go shopping to the local supermarket, play on the swings and slide at the park and visit the local library.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder's management of her childminding service is inadequate, consequently, she does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she cares. Children's records are mostly clear, current and stored securely. Information about individual children is kept in a secure area to ensure confidentiality.

The childminder has not, however, kept up to date with the National Standards for childminding and this means that she has not meet regulations relating to the recording of children's time of arrival and departure in the daily attendance register, this is an issue that remains outstanding from the last inspection.

The childminder has also failed to inform Ofsted of the significant changes in family circumstances or ensured that all adults living on the premises have been suitably vetted. Once again, this is an issue that remains outstanding from the last inspection.

Children develop a secure sense of belonging due to the childminder's warm, caring attitude and the varied play experiences she plans and provides for them. She supervises children well and space within her home is organised appropriately to meet their needs.

Children's health, however, is compromised as the childminder has not kept her first aid training current to ensure her knowledge of first aid procedures are up to date. Neither does she keep an appropriately stocked first aid box. Although she checks her home for safety, all the required fire safety arrangements to protect children are still not in place.

Improvements since the last inspection

During the last inspection four recommendations were made regarding; an appropriate vetting process being undertaken by all members of the household who are aged over 16 years old, a risk assessment of the rear garden is undertaken to identify any potential hazards, a record is made in the children's attendance register of arrival and departure times and to make a suitable range of toys and activities readily accessible to children

The childminder has now moved from her previous home; therefore, the issue of potential hazards in the back garden on those premises no longer applies.

The childminder has obtained a suitable range of age appropriate play resources. These are organised in a plastic box in the lounge and easily accessible, so children can choose and find the toys they need.

The childminder has not been recording children's time of arrival and departure in the daily attendance register, this is an issue that remains outstanding from the last inspection.

The childminder has failed to ensure that all adults living on the premises have been suitably vetted. Once again, this is an issue that remains outstanding from the last inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration/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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children, and ensure that the certificate is maintained, and ensure that the first aid box is fully stocked with the required items and is maintained at all times
- develop a robust system for ensuring that smoke alarms are working and a fire drills are carried out on a regular basis
- ensure that all adults living or working on the premises undertake CRBs and other references and checks required
- ensure accurate attendance records are fully maintained for all minded children (E.g. record child's time of arrival/departure)
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters (E.g. birth of a family member's child and member's of the family no longer living on the premises)

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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