

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	132487
Inspection date	28 January 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 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 1992, she lives with her husband and two adult children aged 24 and 21 years old. The family live in a two bedroom semi detached house in a residential area of Beckton which is within the London borough of Newham. The premises are within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks and public transport.

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

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years, she is currently caring for four children aged two to eight years old, two on a full time basis, and two on a part time basis before and after school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted well. Areas where they eat, rest and play are cleaned each day. The childminder checks the room temperature regularly to make sure children are comfortable. Children currently have the use of one communal hand towel which is changed on a daily basis; however this may not minimise the possible risk of cross infection. Children are gently reminded to dispose of tissues hygienically and wash their hands afterwards. Appropriate first aid arrangements are in place. The childminder holds a current paediatric first aid certificate to ensure her knowledge of first aid procedures is up-to-date. She keeps a suitably stocked first aid box and a clear record of any accidents.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that together they provide a healthy, well balanced diet for children, fresh fruits, salad and vegetables are included with each meal. She has a secure understanding of the nutritional needs of young children and uses discussion to promote their understanding of foods that are good for them. Children are offered drinks of water and no added juices regularly to make sure they do not get dehydrated.

Children enjoy a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities each day that allow them to be active and further develop their physical skills. They use the outdoor play equipment provided in the garden and visit the local park regularly. The childminder takes children for walks to the local shops, toddler group and the park. In the afternoons she walks to collect children from school making sure all children have the opportunity to enjoy walking. Suitable arrangements are in place to make sure children can rest comfortably or enjoy a relaxing activity when they are tired.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is organised well to meet the needs of children and their safety is a priority. Children have ample space to play, a quiet place to rest and a comfortable area to enjoy their meals. They move safely and confidently around the childminder's home. Children have access to safe, age appropriate toys and equipment, for example booster seats and child-sized cutlery allows younger children to feel at ease at meal times.

The childminder's careful daily checks of her home ensures they are protected from harm. Appropriate safety equipment is provided to safeguard children, including socket covers, cupboard locks, stair gates and smoke alarms. Fire safety arrangements are good. The childminder keeps her fire exits clear and practises her fire drill with children on a regular basis, to make sure that she can evacuate them quickly in an emergency.

Children are kept safe on outings. They travel in a buggy or have to hold the childminders hand. She talks to children about road safety when she takes them out walking. Children learn how to keep themselves safe, as they are reminded not to climb on furniture and also talk about the importance of not talking to strangers.

The childminder has a secure understanding of her local authority child protection procedures and her responsibility to safeguard children. She understands the signs and symptoms of possible neglect or abuse and knows what to do if she has concerns about a child's welfare, to

make sure they get the help and support they need. All adults in the childminder's home have been vetted appropriately to ensure they are suitable to have access to children.

The childminder supervises children well and never leaves them alone with un vetted people, including visitors to her home.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and secure in the childminder's care and have good opportunities to learn and have fun. The childminder ensures children are settled gradually into her care so they and their families get to know her well before the placement begins formally.

The childminder plans and provides a good range of interesting activities for children. She borrows books from the local library as well as having a good selection of her own. The childminder reads to children frequently and consequently they handle books with competence and care, the younger children are learning to recognise words and letters of the alphabet.

Children enjoy being creative, they draw with imagination and confidence. They use their imaginations well as they play at being soldiers, the stair gate and the bottom stair becomes the castle with a gate which the children are 'guarding'.

The childminder is a good role model and is interested in what children do and say. She uses everyday play experiences to help them learn. For example, they talk about the colours of the toy cars and count how many red, blue and yellow cars there are. Children benefit from the childminder's warm, caring manner and the enjoyable play opportunities she provides for them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected. The childminder knows them well as individuals and works closely with parents to meet any additional needs they may have. She provides a satisfactory range of play experiences to help them learn about the wider world. Children have access to a range of play resources designed to promote their understanding of diversity; including books, puzzles and dolls. The childminder talks to children about different types of people as they go for walks. Children explore their local community as they visit the local farm, park, shops and library.

Children's behaviour is managed calmly and consistently. The childminder is a positive role model and uses gentle encouragement to help children learn to take turns. Children have good opportunities to further develop their independent skills. The childminder uses praise to reward children, as they learn to tidy away the toys and say 'please' and 'thank you' when offered or given something .

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment working in partnership with parents. She provides parents with lots of verbal information about her childminding service when they first decide to place a child with her. She makes parents welcome in her home, discusses their child's progress each day and organises regular 'chats' to ensure children's care is consistent.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and at home in the welcoming, childminding environment. The childminder promotes their safety and health well and works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are known and met. She plans and provides enjoyable and interesting play experiences for children, consequently they learn and have fun.

Children have good opportunities to explore diversity and the wider world. Their behaviour is managed positively and consistently. As a result, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder is enthusiastic about her childminding role and keen to further develop her knowledge and skills. She keeps herself up-to-date with childcare issues using periodical publications. The childminder is well-organised. All the required childminding documentation is efficiently maintained and stored securely. This means she can find any information she needs quickly and easily, which supports children's welfare.

Improvements since the last inspection

During the last inspection one recommendation was made regarding improve systems for recording children's details.

The childminder has organised her record keeping systems and fully maintains them at all times.

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 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):

- ensure that children are provided with appropriate sole use hand drying facilities

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