

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	132673
Inspection date	25 February 2008
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 satisfactory. 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 July 2001. She lives with her husband and four children aged 17, 15 and twins of seven years. They live in a house in a quiet residential area close to the local shops, schools and park in Manor Park in the London borough of Newham. The downstairs of the house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden.

There are currently two children on roll. The family has a cat. 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's good health is promoted by the childminder following appropriate sickness policies and procedures, which are shared with parents. Children can expect to be treated appropriately in an accident or emergency situation. A fully equipped first aid box is easily accessible, and the childminder has a current first aid certificate. Accident records are completed with parents' signatures and confidentiality is maintained. Children's health is further assured in an emergency

situation because written parental consent is requested for the childminder to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

Children benefit from opportunities to engage in a range of physical activities and the childminder recognises the importance of this. They can move around freely in the playrooms and walk to and from school every day with the childminder to promote their physical development. They learn control of their bodies as they participate in songs and enjoy movement sessions. The childminder works very closely with the individual needs of the children and the preferences of the parents around snack times for the children. Children enjoy and are well nourished by the healthy and nutritious snacks the childminder provides, meeting their individual requirements. Regular drinks are provided. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. The childminder appropriately stores and serves the food provided by parents.

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 children can explore and enjoy the well-equipped premises. They have independent access to a suitable and safe range of equipment and play provision, which is suited to their ages and stages of development. There are good procedures to ensure the provision is regularly checked, kept clean and maintained, which contributes to ensuring children's safety. The childminder's daily checks of her home and her good supervision of children help to ensure they are protected from harm. There is a written fire evacuation procedure, a fire blanket in the kitchen, and there are smoke detectors on both levels. Children's safety is ensured when on outings because written permission has been given for children to be taken on outings. However the childminder has overlooked the requirement to ensure that her own child who is now over sixteen has been suitably vetted.

Appropriate safety measures are in place to protect children, sharp knives are out of reach, hazardous substances are locked away, medication is out of reach and plug sockets have covers. There is a fully enclosed garden, however some rubble needs to be cleared up.

Children are well protected and safeguarded from harm because the childminder has a good understanding of her role with regards to child protection issues. She is aware of the different types of abuse, recognising possible signs and symptoms that may cause concern. The childminder has written policies, which she shares with parents, and is aware of how to implement local safeguarding procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and secure in the childminder's care and enjoy the interesting range of play opportunities she plans and provides. The childminder increases her play equipment according to the ages and interests of the children. They enjoy spending time relaxing in the childminder's care watching their favourite programmes on the television before they set off to school. The childminder uses the library to supplement her range of books and stories. Children enjoy their time when they return from school because the childminder displays sensitivity to balancing the school day with relaxation and interesting activities. A varied range of resources are organised so that children are able to access them independently. Children make choices about their care and activities, and know and comply with safety and health

routines. Children are confident as they talk about their school and home. Children are involved in developmentally appropriate activities.

Children play with a wide range of familiar activities and the childminder offers opportunities for them to acquire new skills and knowledge, for example, they become involved in playing with the musical electric keyboard and play station. Children and the childminder's own children play harmoniously, sharing creative ideas and talking happily. They relate well to each other and childminder, and she asks them questions to encourage children to talk and express themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Policies and procedures work well in practice to promote children's health, safety, and enjoyment, and enable them to make a positive contribution to the setting. The childminder provides a range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. Children make regular visits to local facilities such as the shops, the school and library to learn about their local environment and community. She demonstrates a positive attitude towards caring for children with a disability. 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 show care and concern for each other, and play together harmoniously. They behave well. Children make themselves at home. They have time to relax as well as be active. Positive behaviour is encouraged and praised by the childminder, which encourages children to learn about right and wrong. Children are pleased when they receive praise from the childminder. Children benefit because friendly relationships are established between their parents and the childminder, which helps to ensure their individual needs are fully met. Parents are well informed about their child's day, through informal verbal feedback at end of the day. The parents are given all the written policies. This helps parents to gain an understanding about the service that the childminder provides.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit because the childminder is well organised and plans each day according to the needs of the children in her care. The childminder has written policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children, and has good knowledge of the relevant issues. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and is aware of most of the regulations and requirements she must meet. However, she has overlooked the requirement to ensure adults living in the home are suitably vetted, which may compromise children's safety.

Record keeping is good. Registers are up-to-date and contain children's hours of attendance. The childminder keeps detailed information on children. This enables her to cater for their individual needs well and deal promptly with situations such as contacting parents should there be an emergency. She has suitable procedures in place to ensure information is effectively shared with parents and that confidentiality is maintained. The childminder is aware of the length of time records are to be kept for. Children are happy in the childminder's care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

As a result of recommendations from the last childcare inspection the childminder has made a number of improvements. The childminder has developed a written complaints procedure which includes information on how to make a complaint about the service, and details of contact information for Ofsted. The childminder is aware of the regulation with regards to keeping records of complaints and sharing this information with parents and has developed a system using the sample complaints log to record complaints. This demonstrates an improved knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in the regulations.

Written personal information is now obtained from parents such as children's names, date of birth, address, phone number, emergency contact details, and known medical conditions and allergies etc, ensuring their individual needs are met. All required consents including written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice are in place, which enables the childminder to respond to situations effectively and promptly.

The childminder ensures the environment is clean and well maintained, and has attended a training course to enhance her awareness of child protection issues, and has a copy of 'What to do if you have a concern about a child's well being'. She now has a good understanding of child protection procedures and recording requirements and is confident of how to implement them appropriately. These measures enhance children's safety within the home and help the childminder to protect children effectively.

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 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):

- make sure that the garden is safe by removing building materials
- ensure all adults in the home over the age of 16 years are suitably vetted.

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