

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	133183
Inspection date	29 January 2008
Inspector	Tom Radcliffe
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 was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and one in Barnsbury in the London borough of Islington. 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 under five all day and a child under five after school. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. The childminder attends local childminder groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has made a very clean and well organised environment available for the children that she minds. All areas are clean and maintained in a hygienic condition which ensures that when children explore and play there is a reduced risk of the spread of infection, thus promoting

children's wellbeing. The childminder maintains very good written records that relate to the administering of medication and incidents or accidents. Children's good health and wellbeing is promoted by the childminder's good use of this retained information. The childminder has enhanced her level of provision by ensuring that she has written permission from parents to allow her to seek emergency medical treatment and advice, should it be required. Children can be cared for if they sustain a minor injury as the childminder holds an appropriate first aid qualification and has first aid equipment available for use. The childminder further promotes children's good health by excluding infectious children and by adopting healthy practices; for example, all children are shown the value of personal hygiene and her nappy changing practice is good.

Children's health is also promoted as the childminder provides meals and snacks commensurate with the hours of children's attendance. All food and snacks are healthy, nutritious and freshly prepared. Children are developing good eating habits; for example, they are provided with fresh fruit, vegetables, pasta and home cooked meals, such as stew. The childminder is qualified in safe food handling and ensures that all food is hygienically prepared, stored and served. Children are able to take fresh drinking water according to their needs and the childminder takes great care to ensure that any specific dietary information submitted by parents is followed completely.

Children have access to a good range of indoor and outdoor play equipment to develop a broad range of their physical skills. Indoors children can use age and developmentally appropriate equipment to develop their fine motor skills. These include, dolls to dress, jig saws, mark making equipment and musical toys. In the outdoor area children can take more vigorous exercise and use equipment, such as, wheeled toys, small apparatus and a slide. In addition the childminder makes good use of the locality to make regular visits to parks, play grounds and the local library. She also makes very good use of the local childminding network to enhance the children's experiences of additional play opportunities, for example, through messy play, a larger range of play equipment and soft play facilities. Children are also able to mix with other children and enjoy walking in and around their locality. This contributes very positively to their health and physical wellbeing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very safe and secure environment where they play and interact very well. The childminder makes uncluttered floor space available for children to play in which promotes free movement and access to play equipment. Resources are stored to maintain the safety of the setting and also to promote independent access by the children. Children are able to take rest or be active according to their individual needs. The childminder pays very close attention to children's needs at all times, her very good levels of supervision mean that children's care needs are met and their play environment is hazard free and safe. She achieves this as she monitors children as they sleep, take food and play. In addition the childminder ensures that access to unsafe areas is prevented by the use of safety gates. Children in the setting are kept very safe in the event of an emergency as the childminder has an evacuation plan in place and has good fire detection and control equipment. The children are developing a sense of safety both within the home, as they use toys and undertake activities, and on their regular outings, as they learn about walking safely and taking care when crossing roads.

Children are provided with a good range of play equipment. The childminder provides a thoughtful range of opportunities for children to develop in all areas by providing resources that are suitable for their age, interest levels and stage of development. In addition she maintains

this very good range of equipment in good working order and in a hygienic condition. Children are able to self select activities that enhance their physical development, promote mobility or learn about speaking and language.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She is able to recognise signs and symptoms and knows how to proceed if she were to have concerns about a child's welfare. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very quickly into the childminder's home, they access resources and become engaged in what they are doing. The childminder has a very caring relationship with the children and this is reflected in the confident way that children play and explore within the setting. The use of language by the childminder is very good, she talks to the children constantly asking them questions, making suggestions and giving guidance. The children react well to this language rich environment as they understand more about speech, they respond appropriately and with understanding. The children show signs of growing competence in speaking and listening. Children are engaged in their play for appropriate periods of time and their independence is fostered as they select activities, for example, as children play with shape games and role play equipment. The childminder makes timely interventions where she thinks that they are necessary to guide children or move their learning and play into another direction. Children are happy and occupied in play and they are developing in all areas of learning.

The childminder records a great deal of information about children's development in the form of photographs, individual examples of achievement and collated portfolios. Parents value these examples as accurate indicators of children's progress. The childminder intends to develop this provision by relating achievement to intended learning or development targets.

Children regularly meet other children within the community as they attend local network groups. This helps them to develop social relationship, new skills and allows them to access more play materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good working relationship with parents and ensures that all necessary information is shared which results in children developing well as their personal needs are known and met. Thus children's dietary needs, medical details and interests are known by the childminder and appropriately managed by her. The childminder has a good understanding of the children as individuals and she takes great care to ensure that children develop well in a stimulating environment. Children are developing an awareness of the diverse community around them. The childminder provides play resources that reflect positive images of diversity, for example, through written material and dolls. The childminder has a good understanding of working with children who may have special needs. She always wants children to develop and this approach would help children with, for example, learning delay, as she would plan activities and provide resources and time for development to take place. The childminder's good links with parents would also help when working with children that may have special needs, should these needs arise in the future.

Children's behaviour is good. This is as a result of the purposeful environment that they play in and the support of the childminder. Children respond very well to this environment and develop well with an ever growing understanding of right and wrong.

Children's wellbeing and development is very well promoted by the relationship between the parents and the childminder. Parents expressed positive views about the care and service received from the childminder. Parents particularly like the way that the childminder works in conjunction with them so that children's care needs can be effectively met, for example, potty training, when English is an additional language and encouraging children to have good eating habits. All policies and procedures are in place that outline important aspects of the childminder's work. The childminder makes a range of information available to parents so that they can have an understanding of their child's development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are happy and settled within the surroundings because the childminder provides a supportive, welcoming and caring environment for them to be in. Children have access to appropriate activities that they become engaged in and which give them opportunities to develop and learn. The childminder works very effectively to ensure that all children's needs are met. The childminder undertakes a large amount of training and development to ensure that her skills are regularly updated and her level of provision is ever improving. She meets all the National Standards as children participate in a clear routine which is planned to meet individual needs through, for example, play and visits to local network groups.

Children are very safe and secure within the childminder's home as all adults undergo relevant checks. Children have a growing understanding of how to be healthy, how to be safe and enjoy learning and playing. Parents are given a good range of development information about their children and the childminder intends to enhance this provision. She has ensured that all necessary documentation is in place. This impacts positively on the safety and well being of children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that areas not used for childminding should be made inaccessible to children. Since that time the childminder has introduced the use of safety gates to fulfil this recommendation.

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):

- continue to enhance the provision of children's development records that are made available to parents.

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