

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	135805
Inspection date	04 February 2008
Inspector	Jane Davenport
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 2000. She lives in a house in the Edmonton area of the London Borough of Enfield. The whole of the ground floor of the premises and the first floor bathroom/toilet is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time and is currently minding five children on a full and part time basis.

The childminder has no pets. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is clean and tidy and children receive appropriate support to develop good personal hygiene; for example, they are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before meals and this reduces the risk of passing on germs.

Children are mostly protected in terms of first aid, as the childminder has sufficient systems in place to record accidents and medication and is aware of sharing these records with parents. However, she has not requested consent from all parents to seek emergency medical treatment, which could impact on the care of a child in the event of serious accident or emergency.

Parents provide meals and snacks for their children, and the childminder follows their instructions regarding the storage and preparation of these. Children receive a healthy range of snacks, including fresh fruit, toast and sandwiches and this encourages them to develop healthy eating practices; older children sometimes enjoy helping with the preparation of their food.

Young children receive lots of warmth and affection; they develop a healthy dependence on the childminder who is receptive to their individual needs. She has built warm, trusting relationships, helping the children feel secure.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed and at home at the setting. They move around and use the space confidently, helping themselves to the games and activities they enjoy. The resources for play, sleeping and eating are all in good condition, so children use these in comfort and safety.

Children are kept safe by most aspects of the childminder's care. She makes a careful check of the home to ensure children are not exposed to hazards. A fire blanket is in place in the kitchen, smoke alarms are maintained in working order and the enclosed garden has been made safe. She has considered how she would evacuate the premises in the event of an emergency and this has been successfully consolidated in writing and practised with the children. The childminder has developed systems for written parental permission for outings, however, these systems have not been fully maintained for all children to ensure their welfare.

Children are well safeguarded from possible abuse as the childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and how to record and refer any concerns that she may have about a child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the good relationships they have with the childminder. They have developed strong, trusting relationships with their carer and this is evident when they seek reassurance through hugs and warm words. The environment is very child centred and the childminder talks to young children in English and in their home language, wherever possible, in order to promote their language development and vocabulary. Young children enjoy sitting on her lap and she talks about the different textures and colours of puzzle pieces with them.

The childminder supports children's learning through a range of play experiences, and some worthwhile activities provide focus on all areas of the children's development, including various creative and imaginative opportunities. Children play for short periods of time at chosen activities, such as the home corner equipment and play food, or with puzzles and small world figures; however, the constant background noise from the television can be detrimental to children developing their levels of concentration and they sometimes tend to flit from one thing to another.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equalities issues. She looks after children from various backgrounds and has a positive attitude towards diversity. She has a good range of toys, equipment and resources that contain positive images of society and she uses these effectively with the children.

The childminder has not cared for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, she demonstrated a positive attitude to including all children and would research and assess her ability to provide a good level of care to meet all children's specific needs.

The childminder adopts a calm approach and provides gentle explanations to ensure young children understand right from wrong and the appropriate boundaries. She uses lots of praise and encouragement to reinforce positive behaviour.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to working in partnership with parents; this ensures that children's individual needs are catered for, and enables parents to play an active role in the care of their child. Information is shared with parents, who receive daily feedback on their child's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children have free access to a warm and welcoming environment, which allows for them to participate in a range of play activities. The childminder is aware of her role and responsibility, she enjoys children's company, is aware of their individual needs and ensures they feel comfortable in their surroundings.

Good systems are in place for sharing information with parents about their child's care. Record keeping is generally good; registers are up to date, containing children's hours of attendance and information kept about children is relevant, which helps to promote their welfare. However, because the provider has used a combination of old and new National Childminding Association contracts, she has not thoroughly checked to make sure that they all contain the necessary parental consents, such as for outings and emergency medical treatment. Records are stored in a safe and confidential manner and are accessible in the case of an emergency or for inspection purposes. The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, a recommendation was set for the provider to extend the range of play equipment in order to meet the developmental needs of children under eight. Since then, she has added many items to her toys and resources, particularly in terms of those that depict positive images of society and this improvement has had a positive effect in terms of children's choices and learning opportunities.

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):

- request written permission from all parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- obtain written permission from all parents for routine outings
- reduce the use of the television to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on children's levels of concentration

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