

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 140267 |
| Inspection date | 16 January 2008 |
| Inspector | Asia Islam |
| 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 1986. She lives with her two adult sons in the Stroud Green area of the London Borough of Haringey. Children have access to the lounge, kitchen, master bedroom and a bathroom.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years. She currently has one child under three years on roll.

The childminder helps to run a voluntary baby and toddler group for two mornings a week at the local primary school. She also regularly takes the children out to visit the local facilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder's hygiene practices are effective and help to reduce cross infections. The toys and equipment are regularly disinfected and the premises are maintained to a very good standard of hygiene. Younger children's nappies are frequently changed to promote their personal

comfort. The childminder ensures that the children wash hands at the appropriate times for their well being.

Systems for recording accidents and the administration of medication are available and the childminder has an excellent understanding of these procedures. A list of the notifiable infectious diseases is maintained for reference and shared with the parents. The childminder holds a valid first aid qualification. A first aid box is in place with the required supplies. The written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment is in place. These help to promote children's health.

Children's dietary needs are discussed and agreed with the parents. For snacks, the childminder ensures she provides fruits and vegetables to promote children's healthy eating habits. Currently, the parents provide children's meals and snack, which the childminder serves. Drinking water is provided within children's reach to quench their thirst. Parents are provided with the necessary information about the contents of the packed lunches to ensure these are nutritional and safe.

Children's physical development is promoted because the childminder regularly takes them out to visit the local park and drop-in centres, where they can walk, run and have access to a range of outdoor resources.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an environment that is maintained to a good standard of decoration. Nursery rhyme, alphabet and number posters are also displayed to make the home warm and welcoming. Safety measures are in place to reduce any risks to children. The fire evacuation plan is regularly practised with the children to support their understanding about fire safety. Children's awareness of road safety is promoted through explanations during outdoor visits. The toys and equipment are maintained in excellent condition and safe for children's play. The childminder has attended a child protection course and she is aware of the procedures to follow in the event of any concerns to ensure children are protected from any harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminders home. They show interest in the available range of resources and activities. These are attractively arranged within children's reach to encourage their growing curiosity, independence and physical movements. Children are playfully introduced to the bright and colourful resources to support their sensory, creative and imaginative play. Children enjoy listening to the background music and they gently sway to the rhythms. Children are confident, they play alone and together with the childminder. She offers them cuddles and affection to support their sense of belonging and security. The childminder talks to the children and shows gestures to encourage their expression. Children eagerly imitate the childminder by making babbling sounds in response. She is aware of the Birth to three matters framework and uses this to record children's development. The childminder regularly takes the children out to visit the drop-in centres for outdoor exploration and socialisation.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have access to a range of quality books, puzzles and play people depicting different cultures and disability to support their understanding of the wider communities. They are also taken out to visit the local facilities, where opportunities are available to mix with their peers and adults and celebrate cultural events. The childminder has experience of working with children with learning difficulties and disabilities and she is committed to supporting their needs together with the parents. The childminder has a secure understanding of the positive strategies for managing children's challenging behaviour. She has a gentle and warm approach towards the children. They are well-behaved and pay attention to her guidance. Praise is offered to children for being good and the consequences of their actions are explained to help them understand about their behaviour. Children benefit from the positive relationships the childminder has with their parents. The setting's policies and procedures are shared with the parents at the start of the placement. Information about the children's preferences and welfare is obtained and recorded. Thereafter, children's progress, both verbal and written, is regularly shared with the parents to ensure consistency. The childminder is aware of the complaints procedure and she ensures parents can approach her with any concerns. However, a system for recording any formal complaints is not in place.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. They benefit from care from an established childminder, who has attended many courses to keep up to date with childcare issues, these includes the Birth to three matters framework and the Early Years Foundation Stage. As a result, she provides a range of quality resources to promote children's exploration and independence. Although a recording system for complaints is not in place, most of the required records for children's health and safety are correctly maintained. The childminder displays the setting's policies and procedures, her certificates of attendance on courses and the registration certificate for parents' information. Children's outcomes are enhanced by the childminder, who understands most of the requirements for childminding.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop knowledge and understanding about working with children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The childminder has since attended childcare courses that covered this area and she has also acquired work experience in relation to this. She has successfully worked in partnership with the parents of the children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure their developmental needs are fully supported.

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):

- develop a recording system for complaints

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