

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140276
Inspection date	11 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 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 2001. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in the London borough of Haringey. Children have access to the ground floor kitchen/dining area, the first floor sleep/play room, the bathroom and a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years.

There is currently one child under three years on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is maintained to a good standard of hygiene and cleanliness. The childminder regularly changes the babies' nappies to promote their physical comfort and well being. She ensures that children wash hands at the appropriate times to prevent any infections.

Children's health needs are generally well met because the childminder understands the procedures to follow in the event of accidents and for the administration of any medications. There are appropriate recording systems in place for these purposes. She has recently updated the first aid qualification. There is a first aid box in place but it is not stocked with all the required supplies. The childminder has not requested written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for children, which can cause delay to their treatment.

The childminder ensures that children are offered fruits and vegetables to support their healthy eating habits. They have yoghurt for mid-morning snack, which they enjoy, and drinking water is available within reach to meet their thirst need. Parents provide packed lunch and snacks that the childminder serves in accordance with children's nutritional needs. Additional fruits and toast are provided by the childminder when required.

Children's daily exercise needs are promoted through regular visits to the local drop-in centre, the library and shops. They also have access to an enclosed garden for running and playing with bikes when the weather is good.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Safety measures are in place to prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to hazardous areas of the home. A smoke alarm is fitted on the first floor of the house and is regularly checked to ensure it is in working order. The fire blanket is available in the kitchen but it is not wall mounted. Fire evacuations are regularly practised with the children to support their understanding about the procedures to follow in the event of any fire. Children's toys and equipment are regularly checked to reduce any risks. The premises is decorated and maintained well to make the environment warm and welcoming. Children's interests are protected because the childminder is aware of the procedures to follow in the event of any child protection concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and settled in the childminder's home. A suitable range of resources are available and these are arranged within easy reach to encourage children's free exploration and movements. Alphabet flash cards and books are shared with the children to support their early communication skills and letter recognition. Cause and effect toys, building blocks, dolls, soft toys and colouring resources are available to stimulate their imagination and creativity. The childminder talks about the activities with the children, which supports their verbal expression. Children eagerly make vocal sounds and frequently say "look" when they want to share their interest with the childminder, who responds with enthusiasm. The Birth to three matters framework is not used to plan children's activities. However, their emotional well-being and developmental needs are met as the childminder pays good attention to children's interests. As a result, they are engaged in constructive play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's understanding about diversity is promoted through regular visits to the local drop-in centre, where they have opportunities to socialise with the wider communities. The childminder

has some books reflecting positive images of cultures within the home to help children develop an awareness about differences. Children's preferences are valued, which promotes their sense of belonging. Information about children's needs is obtained from parents to ensure consistency. The childminder provides parents with daily feedback about the children's day to keep them well informed. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are welcomed at the setting. The childminder has a gentle and caring approach towards the children, which helps to make them feel comfortable. They confidently sit and play with the childminder, this indicates the positive relationships between them. Children listen and respond positively to the childminder's directions. She offers them frequent praise for their good behaviour. The childminder is aware about the complaints procedure but she has not developed a recording system.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children are well cared for by the childminder who has undergone the necessary vetting procedures for suitability. She has updated her first aid course as required but she has not attended any other courses to keep up to date with current childcare issues. Consequently, she is not aware of the Birth to three matters framework. Most of the required records are in place. However, a recording system for complaints is not available and the written permission from parents allowing the childminder to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for children has not been obtained. The registration certificate is available to show parents but it is not displayed. Therefore, she is in breach of a registration condition. Children are made to feel comfortable because the childminder has a gentle and warm approach towards them. She provides them with a suitable range of resources for their play needs and pays attention to their interests. As a result, children are happily engaged in play and are well settled.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to: complete a valid first aid course and ensure the first aid box is adequately stocked; increase the range of toys and equipment, including resources that reflect positive images of gender, religion and disability, to meet children's developmental needs; develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues; maintain up to date record of children's daily hours of attendance; request written permission from parents for seeking medical advice and treatment and permission for transport.

The childminder has since completed a first aid course but has not fully stocked the first aid box with the required supplies. She has obtained some resources to meet children's developmental needs and has gained an understanding of the child protection issues. Children's daily records of attendance are maintained up to date with the necessary details. The written consent from parents for transport is in place but the permission for seeking emergency medical advice and treatment has not been requested. This means children's safety and developmental needs are generally well promoted. However, as their health needs have only been partly met the childminder has demonstrated a commitment to continue to make further improvements.

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):

- regularly check and replenish the first aid box with the necessary first aid supplies and obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for children
- develop a recording system for use in the event of any complaints
- comply with the required registration conditions for displaying registration certificate

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