

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	141223
Inspection date	27 February 2008
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool

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 1995. She lives in the Walthamstow area within the London borough of Waltham Forest. The dining room and a first floor bedroom is used for childminding purposes and a garden is available for outdoor play. The childminder has a rabbit, cockatiel and an Aviary with small birds.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently caring for two children under five years during part time hours and five children over five years before and/or after school. She attends toddler groups and visits the parks with the children. 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 physical health and well-being is effectively promoted in daily routines, the arrangements and organisation of the environment and the activities for physical play and opportunities. Babies' hands are wiped after painting activities and before and after meals

times. Liquid soap is available to children in the toilet and each child has an individual guest towel for wiping their hands, helping to develop their awareness of the importance of good personal hygiene. The childminder keeps all areas accessible to children in a clean manner through wiping table tops before and after use; ensuring that shoes are not worn in the house to promote the health of babies and young children when crawling or playing on the floor. In addition to this, gloves are worn during nappy changing and soiled nappies are safely disposed. Children receive appropriate treatment in the event of sustaining minor accidents because the childminder holds a valid first aid certificate.

Children are provided with a wide range of nutritious and balance meals catered to their individual dietary requirements each day. They develop healthy eating habits as they are offered organic natural yoghurt for breakfast and fresh fruits for snacks. Babies are developing independence skills at snack times as they are offered finger foods and bite size pieces of soft fresh fruits. Parents are able to view the varied foods offered to their children because the childminder keeps a record of the different types of meals and displays the weekly menu. Outings to parks, physical activity play centres, toddler groups and a wide range of physical play equipment in the childminder's garden gives children lots of opportunities to practise and develop their physical skills. Children are able to learn about living creatures through observation and discussions about the rabbit and an aviary of birds.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in the safety and security of an environment that enables them to move freely, explore their surroundings and to understand the need for boundaries. Children are developing an awareness of how to keep themselves safe as they are supported to practise emergency evacuation procedures. Also, older children are helped to learn about road safety through discussion and following the examples shown when going to school and on trips. Effective procedures are in place to identify and eliminate potential hazards; the actions to be taken if a child gets lost and the arrangements in place for emergency cover in the absence of the childminder.

Children have ample space to work and play as they access a first floor room for quiet activities, the main play area on the ground floor and an outdoor playroom at the rear of the garden. Children choose from an extensive range of good quality toys that are stimulating and appeals to their interests. This includes a good variety story and reference books, role play materials, physical play equipment and super heroes, masks and cultural dressing up clothes. Babies and young children are provided with a suitable range of furniture and equipment that is developmentally appropriate, comfortable and conform to safety standards. Available is a comfortable chair where the childminder and children can sit together to read stories, talk or to gently prepare babies for rest or sleep. This provides children with emotional stability.

Children are protected because the childminder ensures all visitors on the premises sign themselves in on arrival. She understands her responsibilities with regards to the procedures for child protection and knows what to do if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well because the childminder is warm, caring and attentive, valuing each child as an individual. The childminder knows the children well and provides good opportunities

for older children to relax or engage in purposeful play before and after school. Younger children are provided with a consistent routine that meets their specific needs. This helps all children to feel reassured. Children develop a sense of belonging as they are provided with their own pegs for hanging coats in the hallway and also each child has access to their individual guest towels in the toilet area.

The childminder creates playful opportunities that invites babies to respond to recognisable words such as 'banana' and 'tar'; developing into a turn taking activity, which prompts babies to listen and respond. Young children are provided with many opportunities to explore their world. For example, they see colour and movement from hanging mobiles in the playroom and toileting area; touch and feel the texture of paint when participating in hand prints and painting activities; listening to different sounds from activity sets and musical toys. Mirrors on play equipment help babies and young children to explore what they look like, growing an awareness of who they are. Babies have opportunities to explore paint as they are supported to make hand prints on cards to be presented as Mothers Day gifts.

Older children have good opportunities to discover the features of the environment and learn about historical events through visits to places of interests such as the Princess Diana Park, the Childhood museum and the National Army museum. A good range of arts and crafts materials are available to children, enabling them to express their ideas in drawing, painting and making paper daffodils and gift boxes. Photographic evidence shows children making paper daffodils and decorating gift boxes using a range of materials. Samples of children's work also show free paintings, drawings and collage.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children come from a variety of backgrounds and their individual needs are valued and respected.

Children have access to a wide range and variety of resources that depicts positive images of race, culture and disability. These resources form an essential part of their play and experiences. Although none of the children attending has been identified with disabilities or learning difficulties, the childminder has a positive attitude to caring for children with various and additional needs and is proactive in developing her knowledge in this area of care. Children are supported to show care and concern for others through discussions and meaningful activities such as filling in a shoe box with gifts that they wish to send to other children around the world. The childminder uses effective strategies to help children learn right from wrong and promote positive behaviour.

Children's individual needs are met very well because the childminder obtains all relevant details such as care routines, health and dietary requirements, emergency contact details and consents from parents. This ensures continuity and consistency of care for children. The childminder ensures that parents are kept well informed about their children's care and achievements through daily discussions, the use of individual profile book of children participating in activities, samples of their artwork and written care routines for babies and young children. Parents are provided with a wealth of information through the availability of comprehensive policies, welcome pack about the service provided and including the written procedure to follow if they wish to make a complaint. While the childminder is aware of the importance for keeping records of complaints, she is not fully secure in her knowledge about some aspects of the regulations for dealing with complaints. However, this is a minor concern and therefore has limited impact

on children's wellbeing. An information board is available and displays the daily routine, menus and the registration of certificate. This enhances the welfare of children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's individual needs are well met through good working relationships with parents; frequently sharing information about children's development and achievements. Children's care and learning is enhanced because the childminder has good knowledge and understanding of childcare. She provides a purposeful range of indoor and outdoor activities that helps to promote children's all round development. Daily routines and consistent good practises ensure that children are kept secure, safe and healthy. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and she is fully aware of her responsibility for safeguarding children.

A broad range of policies enhances her practices. Policies are efficiently organised in labelled files and readily available for inspection. Children's records are stored in a confidential manner, protecting their welfare. All other relevant documentation for the safe management of children are in place and appropriately maintained, though a few entries in the accident book does not include the time of accidents. The childminder holds a recognised childcare qualification and is actively developing her knowledge and skills further through ongoing training in childcare and education. This support children and contribute to their growth and development. The childminder meets the needs of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to provide an appropriate range of activities and resources that promotes anti-discriminatory practices.

The childminder has extended the range of resources to reflect positive images of race, culture and disability. This helps children to acknowledge differences, understand diversity and develop a positive outlook of the wider world.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- improve knowledge of the procedures for dealing with complaints
- ensure accident records includes all required details.

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