

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	144368
Inspection date	18 February 2008
Inspector	Rosemary Coburn

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 2000. She lives with her young son in a three bedroom first floor converted flat in the Dalston area of London borough of Hackney, within walking distance of shops, parks and the train and bus services. The childminder is registered to care for five children aged birth to eight years. The main areas used for childminding are the living room, a dedicated playroom, a bedroom and the kitchen, bathroom and toilet. There are currently two children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in an environment that is clean, tidy and they are provided with good support to develop suitable personal hygiene routines. For example, the childminder washes her hands before preparing snacks. Children also wash their hands before eating snacks and refreshments. The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge of how to positively support children's good health and has established suitable procedures for the administration of medication, recording incidents and accidents and information this information is shared with parents. Written consent

for emergency medical advice or treatment is in place and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. This means that children's good health and welfare is well supported.

The childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating for under fives. For example, weekly menus are in place which provide children with choices as to what they would like to eat. This means that children receive a variety of healthy and nutritious meals which are freshly cooked every day. Children enjoy meal times and they are well behaved and polite while seated around the dining table discussing the benefits of eating fruit and healthy food.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are at ease, confident and able to move around without restrictions in a comfortable and well organised family setting. Children have safe and easy access to a wide range of good quality toys and resources which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures being in place such as smoke alarms, stair gates, fire blanket, safety plug covers and closed circuit television.

Children's welfare and safety is supported as the childminder demonstrates a suitable understanding of her responsibilities to safeguard children in her care. The childminder is aware of some of the signs and symptoms that indicate possible abuse and the procedures to follow in the event of any concerns that she may have or allegation of abuse being made against her or any member of her household.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children learn and develop in an environment where they play happily together, develop independence, make choices and take decisions. This means that children's social skills are developed as they confidently interact with one another. Children are well behaved and have very easy and safe access to a wide range of age and stage appropriate toys, materials, resources which provide them with sufficient stimulation, challenge and good learning opportunities.

The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and develop and creates an environment where children are valued. For example, the childminder interacts well with children and supports them in their play by listening to them, joining in their discussions and answering their questions. This means that good trusting relationships are built and children are supported in becoming confident learners.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, settled, feel good about themselves and learn to show respect for others. Constant praise and encouragement helps children develop a positive self image. The childminder has completed training in equal opportunities and disability discrimination awareness. This helps children to develop a positive attitude towards diversity.

Children benefit from good behaviour management which helps them to respond positively. Parents receive good information about their children's health, development and daily routines. Parents also have easy access to a suitable written complaints procedure which includes details

of Ofsted's address and telephone number. This sharing of information ensures good quality care which supports children's learning.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well organised, well maintained family home. The setting is warm, friendly and children receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Children benefit from a wide and varied range of activities which promotes their all round learning and development. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude toward training and has undertaken NVQ levels 2 and 3, Birth-to-three matters, promoting outcomes for children and holds a childminding mentors certificate. This means that the childminder is able to keep up-to-date with current childcare practices in order to provide children with good quality childcare.

Children's general well-being is promoted by well documented information although some documents are not readily available on request. Regular informal discussions with parents ensure continuity of care for the children and helps promote their welfare. This means that the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to develop knowledge and better understanding of Child Protection issues and procedures; ensure children are supervised by registered minder only; maintain up to date written documentation of the daily attendance register with all required details of arrival and departure times; provide an appropriate range of activities and resources that promotes diversity and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has undertaken suitable training on safeguarding children and ensures that children are supervised by her at all times. The daily register includes times of children's arrival and departure and there is an appropriate range and depth of toys and resources which promotes diversity. Written permission from parents for seeking emergency advice or medical treatment is now in place.

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):

- ensure that all documentation is readily available on request

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