

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	153598
Inspection date	11 March 2008
Inspector	Natasha Parsons

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 registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and their adult son, in the Leytonstone area of Waltham Forest. The whole of the ground floor areas and some of the first floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and currently has seven children on roll, all are part time arrangements. The childminder walks to the local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local childcare groups and takes children to the library and park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a clean and suitable setting, they actively contribute when they design and produce posters that remind them of the importance of washing their hands, and the rules for using the bathroom, for example, "flush the toilet and wash your hands". They are protected when they wash their hands after returning from school, after being outside and

when in contact with animals, the use of liquid soap and paper towels further prevents the spread of germs. Good hygiene methods when changing nappies further protect children for example, the use of disposable gloves and cleaning of the changing mat with antibacterial spray.

A current first aid qualification, the presence of appropriately stocked first aid boxes, which are taken on outings. Effective medication, accident and incident records and parental emergency consent are in place, these keep children safe. A good unwell policy and practice protects children from the risk of infectious conditions, for example, chicken pox. Children are appropriately excluded if unwell and parents are contacted if children become unwell during the day.

Children are learning about a healthy lifestyle when they learn about cleaning their teeth after eating and the benefits of healthy eating when they make their own pizza and eat fruit as a snack. They benefit from participating in regular physical opportunities when they use apparatus at the gym park, toy library and use parks. Organised competitive outdoor sport activities develop children's physical skills when they play running games, practice the high jump and inside they use a tunnel, musical floor mats and skittles.

Mealtimes are taken at the kitchen table and in suitable high chairs, flexible arrangements are in place and meals are provided by either parents or childminder, supplied meals and drinks are appropriately stored and reheated. Children's dietary needs are well managed when this information is collected at the beginning of each placement and recorded for future reference. Children's food preferences are included in the meals provided, however the childminder is aware this sometimes results in children eating processed foods, and she is committed to address this. Parents find the records of food eaten contained within 'a day in the life of' useful and keep this for their own reference.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for and play in a mostly safe setting, they have access to a kitchen, downstairs toilet and secure garden. They use the first floor lounge for quieter and sleeping activities, space is limited and this impacts on children. Safety modifications keep children safe, for example, safety gates, fire blanket and a high level lock on the front door. However, children are not protected as some of the kitchen drawers are accessible, the childminder is committed to make these inaccessible to children. The garden is enclosed and would appropriately be made safe before being used by children in warmer weather. Equipment is purchased from reputable manufacturers with the safety kite mark. Equipment is regularly checked, cleaned and broken or unsuitable equipment is discarded. Children practice and follow an emergency escape plan which is recorded, they are protected as the childminder has appropriate food hygiene training.

Children are kept safe when outside because young children either hold the childminder's hand or the buggy, wrist straps and harnesses are used and children remain in her care, children are developing an awareness of stranger danger through discussion and games. A lost and uncollected child policy protects children.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has completed relevant training, she has effective procedures she would follow if concerned about a child and she advises parents to keep her informed of any injuries children obtain at home. Details of the local safeguarding team are

available and an appropriate procedure for the recording of concerns. The childminder is aware she has a responsibility to protect children and she has appropriate systems to protect children from un- vetted adults, for example, she has a visitors book and children remain in her direct care at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and have formed positive relationships with the childminder. The children enjoy a suitable range of play materials and activities. They spend time at appropriate childcare groups and in the childminder's home. However, the storage of play equipment and games in the hall and on the staircase reduces the space available and the range of activities that can be provided at any time. Children are able to self select activities from the storage unit in the kitchen, and enjoy playing with plastic food, trains and play dough. The garden, used in warmer weather, increases the available space and broadens children's play experiences when they use bean bags and skipping ropes.

Written plans and developmental records keep parents informed about their children's day and progress. The childminder observes children and provides activities that challenges and moves them onto the next stage of development. Children contribute their ideas when deciding on outings and have enjoyed trips to a farm, the seaside and museums, for example, The museum of childhood.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing an awareness of the local community when they use community childcare groups, local parks shops and schools. A good range of materials help children to develop a positive awareness of diversity. The childminder manages derogative comments in an sensitive manner, when she explains these comments are hurtful and that each person is an individual and should be respected. She further supports this through the reading of books and role play activities provided. Children are cared for in an inclusive setting, she supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and works effectively with their parents and other professionals to meet their needs. Children have their own labelled coat hooks which reinforces their value and importance within the setting.

Purposeful house rules keep children, others and property safe. Children are reminded it is not nice to hurt others and appropriate sanctions are applied when 'time out' is used and is managed according to the child's age. Children are reminded of the rules as these are displayed, and children help to manage their own behaviour with the use of star charts, and are rewarded when they have five stars. Children's behaviour is managed in partnership with their parents, who are consulted and advised when children behave well. Children behave well because consistent boundaries and rules are in place, they are supported by the childminder to understand right from wrong.

Parents are kept well informed about their children through regular verbal and written feedback recorded on their 'all about me' sheets, which documents progress, for example, a child who peddles a bicycle for the first time and activities completed. Daily sheets keep parents informed about their child's care needs for the day, for example, what they have eaten, slept and mood for the day. The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet their individual work

commitments and contracts formalise the arrangement. Parental complaint information is available.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is experienced. She provides flexible care to children and their families. She organises her day to ensure she meets her registration ratios and provides part time and after school care. She is developing her childminding range of policies and procedures, the policies she has adapted reflect, most accurately, her practices. The childminder has a generally good knowledge of childminding regulations and requirements, however, her most current registration certificate was not displayed for parents information. All the required records and parental consents are in place. She is part of a childminding network and receives support from the coordinator, she is a member of the national childminding association. The childminder has completed additional training and is committed to complete other courses, for example, the early years foundation stage training.

A developing parental portfolio is available, which includes relevant information about the childminder and her family, parents share their views in the compliments log, and complaint information and log is in place. Records are appropriately maintained and are stored in an accessible and confidential manner.

Children are settled and make themselves at home, however, limited space impacts on children being able to move freely, explore within the setting and restricts the range of activities that can be provided for their use at any one time. The childminder is committed to ensure that space opportunities are maximised for children. She intends to use other areas within the home and relocate items stored in the hall and staircase. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to conduct regular safety checks of her premises. Both her and her childminding coordinator complete regular risk assessments to ensure the premises are safe.

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):

- ensure all risks to children in the home and garden are minimised
- ensure space and equipment is organised to maximise the space available
- ensure the most current registration certificate is displayed.

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