

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160021
Inspection date	17 March 2008
Inspector	Pauline Nazarkardeh
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 2002. She lives with her daughter in a two bedroom, end of terrace house in West Finchley in the London borough of Barnet.

The whole of the house is registered as suitable for the purpose of childminding; however, childminding tends to take place in the lounge and kitchen. There is a downstairs toilet and an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. She is currently minding two children over five years of age before and after school.

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 health is well promoted because the childminder's home is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. Children are beginning to learn the importance of developing good personal care skills, as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times of the day. However, facilities for hand drying do not prevent cross-infection. Children's health is further promoted because the childminder has written permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment for their child should the need arise.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to benefit from rigorous physical exercise in the open air as they play in the garden. During school holidays, children enjoy day trips to wildlife parks and places of interest. Children's health is further promoted as the childminder provides snacks and meals that are healthy, nutritious and take account of their individual dietary needs. Children particularly enjoy making their own pizzas with the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home provides a warm and welcoming environment for children. There is sufficient space available for them to freely explore the play resources in comfort and safety. The table in the kitchen enables children to sit comfortably at meal times and do drawing and craft activities on an appropriate surface. Suitable play materials are set out by the childminder each day, such as dressing up clothes and construction bricks, but children's independence is also promoted as they self-select what they wish to use from the storage boxes.

Children's safety is promoted, as the childminder ensures they are not exposed to any obvious hazards within her home. The fire blanket and smoke alarm are appropriately located. The childminder has also devised an evacuation plan to use in an emergency. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection matters. She is clear that the well-being of children is paramount, and that any child protection concerns must be reported.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily from school and settle in quickly in the homely environment. They can relax or be active in accordance with their needs and interests at the end of the school day. Children are very keen to spend time with the childminder and her family.

The childminder values children's opinions. Children can choose to play with a selection of toys and activities, such as construction sets, drawing, cutting or cooking activities, or imaginative play.

When asked how they would describe their time at the childminder's home, children said that the childminder is kind, that she lets them play with their favourite toys, and that she liked the Mother's Day card they made for her.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and content in the childminder's care. The childminder understands that working in partnership with parents has a positive impact on children, because all their needs are known and consistent care can be provided.

Children have access to a range of resources that promote a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity within society. The books, in particular, show children and families from a variety of backgrounds

Children's behaviour is very good, as the variety of play opportunities available each day ensures they are kept busy and interested. In addition, the childminder has house rules for the children that are applied consistently. Consequently, children learn the boundaries of acceptable behaviour and what is expected of them. This positive approach helps children to develop a sense of security and belonging.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisational skills. Her home allows children the freedom to play and move around safely within a clean and safe environment. The day is also organised well to provide opportunities for children to play in the childminder's home, as well as attending clubs and other out of school activities. This helps to ensure children's all-round developmental progress, and promotes their confidence and self-esteem. The good working partnership the childminder enjoys with the children's parents also fosters children's well-being.

Children's health, safety and welfare are further promoted as the childminder maintains all the required records. Written information is detailed and kept up-to-date. 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 extend the health information she holds about the children. This has been done and has improved children's safety while in the care of the childminder.

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):

- ensure that the arrangements for hand drying prevent cross-infection.

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