

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160051
Inspection date	20 February 2008
Inspector	Jane Davenport
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2000. She lives with her husband in a house, which is situated in the Edmonton area of the London Borough of Enfield. The whole of the ground floor of the premises, the first floor bathroom and one bedroom are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight at any one time and is currently minding four children on a full and part time basis.

The childminder keeps ornamental fish in the garden pond. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The environment is clean and tidy and children receive effective support to develop good personal hygiene. They know that washing their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating

helps prevent the spread of germs; children who are being toilet trained receive appropriate support.

Although the childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of first aid procedures, she has not attended a course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children since 2004, and her first aid certificate has expired. This means that methods used may not be in line with current practices. In addition, she has not consistently obtained prior written consent from parents before administering medication to children. This is a breach of a regulation.

The childminder discusses any special dietary requirements with parents and makes a record of these; however, they are not always discussed in sufficient detail to ensure she is totally clear about what to provide. Children benefit from a well balanced diet, including jacket potatoes, pasta, fresh fruit and yoghurts; fresh drinking water is always available for them. The childminder has completed a food hygiene course and follows good hygiene procedures when preparing and serving food.

Regular outings to the park, where there is large play equipment, give children plenty of opportunity to develop their physical skills and to learn how their bodies work. They also have opportunities for meeting up with other registered childminders and their children, which helps them to socialise.

Young children receive lots of warmth and affection. The under threes develop a healthy dependence on the childminder who is receptive to their individual needs; she has built warm, trusting relationships, helping the children feel secure.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children play in a well organised environment that allows them to move around safely. They independently select activities from a range of appropriate toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children are also encouraged to keep themselves safe, for example, by being reminded to be careful when running indoors.

Children can move around safely as the childminder has addressed a range of potential hazards. For example, safety gates are used to prevent access to certain areas of the home, working smoke alarms are in place at every level and there is a secure outdoor area. The childminder has a written emergency evacuation plan, which she states she has practised with the children; however, she does not currently have prior written consent to take the children on routine outings or to take them out in her car.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled at the childminder's house; they relate well to her and are confident and sociable. They are learning to become independent as they choose between a variety of

toys, books and activities and spend their time purposefully and actively engaged and interested in the activities provided. For example, they enjoy a colouring activity and concentrate well at the large numeric floor puzzle, confidently naming numbers and colours. They confidently approach the childminder for support indicating good, trusting relationships are built.

The childminder encourages the children's language development as she routinely talks about what she, and they, are doing. She provides an appropriate level of questioning enabling them to begin to learn how to express themselves. Children enjoy books and listen avidly to stories. They learn about the meaning of words through the childminder's expressive reading and explanations.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and encouraged to express their individual personalities. They have access to some books and resources that help them to learn about diversity in terms of race and culture; however, positive images of disability and gender are more limited.

The childminder has had experience of caring for children with special needs; this means she is able to adapt activities to ensure all children are included. Close liaison with parents and outside agencies is effective in ensuring that all children's needs are well planned for and met.

The childminder adopts a calm, patient approach and provides explanations to ensure even very young children understand right from wrong and the appropriate boundaries. She uses lots of praise and encouragement to reinforce positive behaviour.

The childminder gives daily feedback to parents about their child's day. This helps provide children with consistent care between home and the setting; parents express their satisfaction with the service provided. The childminder has made a written complaints procedure available to parents; however, it contains incorrect details of the regulator, referring parents to the local authority inspection unit.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The home is effectively organised to provide a child centred environment for the children to play happily and the childminder shows an understanding of her role in supporting the children in their play and learning. The day is well-planned allowing children time for quiet and active play and children are happy in the childminder's care.

Although the registration certificate is displayed and some records are maintained to a satisfactory standard, not all documentation relating to childminding activities is in place or completed appropriately; for example the childminder does not have relevant signed consent forms from parents for outings or for transporting children in a vehicle and the medication record is not complete. In addition, the childminder has not maintained a current first aid qualification. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, three actions and two recommendations were set. The actions were to complete an appropriate first aid course, including training in first aid for infants and young children, to provide a suitable range of toys, activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and to make sure toys are well maintained, well organised and easily accessible to children. The recommendations were to make the garden secure, medicines and cleaning materials inaccessible to children and to make a written complaints procedure available to parents.

Although the childminder completed a first aid course following the last inspection, she has not ensured that it is kept up to date, and this remains an action from this inspection. She has obtained a suitable range of toys and resources, which are well maintained, organised and easily accessible to children; some resources contain positive images of race and culture, but those depicting positive images of gender and disability are limited. The garden has been made secure and all hazardous items are inaccessible to children and the childminder now has a written complaints procedure, which she makes accessible to parents. However, this does not contain correct information about the regulator.

These improvements have had a positive effect on some areas of the care provided.

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 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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- obtain written permission from parents in every instance before administering medication to children
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- obtain prior written consent for routine outings and for transporting minded children in a vehicle
- record clear information about children's special dietary requirements and ensure these are adhered to

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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