

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160083
Inspection date	25 March 2008
Inspector	Carol Patricia Willett

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 outstanding. 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 1984. She lives in a semi detached house with her husband and adult son in Edmonton N.9. The premises are located close to Edmonton Green shopping centre, Eldon Infants School and a local park. Children have access to a playroom at the side of the house, a large kitchen, ground floor toilet and a covered paved secure garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and is currently minding two children, of which one is under five, on a part time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She is a member of the Enfield Childminding Network Group and the National Childminding Association. She holds a childcare qualification and a current first aid certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children stay healthy and develop awareness of healthy living as the childminder has extremely good hygiene procedures in place which ensures that her home is always clean and well maintained and reduces the risk of cross infection. Children learn about the importance of being healthy through robust daily routines. For example, they know they need to wash their hands before food and after using the toilet, using individual hand towels to dry their hands. A poster is displayed to remind children about good hand washing procedures.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of healthy eating. She has completed a health and hygiene workshop and has notified the environmental health office of her childminding service as she keeps up to date with current legislation. She ensures children eat a varied selection of healthy, nutritious snacks and they select the fruit they want as they come in from school, enjoying an apple and a banana. The childminder ensures children who bring packed lunches sit to the table and eat sufficient as she sits with them. Meals and snack times are social occasions where children talk to the childminder, discussing their day at school and things they like. The childminder ensures children have regular access to drinks as a jug of water and cups are available on a low table for children to freely access. The childminder meets children's dietary needs well as she keeps comprehensive, well-organised records and shares daily information with parents about their children's individual needs. The childminder ensures parents are kept informed through well documented accident and medication records. All required parents' signatures and consents are obtained to seek emergency treatment and to give medication. The childminder keeps her first aid certificate up to date which ensures appropriate treatment is given in the event of an accident. She has a well stocked first aid kit and ensures she has a small kit when she takes the children out.

Children develop their physical skills; they enjoy fresh air and good health as they have excellent opportunities to experience a wide range of activities. These include garden play, visits to the local park and physical play activity centres. The children enjoy dancing and singing to children's music and songs. The childminder carefully supports and supervises their outdoor play to ensure the children are safe. The covered area means they can play outside all year round. Children experience a wide range of planned craft activities and use a wide range of tools and resources including construction toys, jigsaws, scissors, pencils and paintbrushes to develop their manipulative skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy and stay safe at the childminder's house as she provides a child-friendly well maintained family environment. The children have use of a dedicated playroom which is very comfortable and welcoming. The childminder has organised the environment exceptionally well so children can explore and develop safely with sufficient space to meet their needs. The children develop a good sense of belonging as the childminder displays educational posters and examples of the children's art work which makes the playroom very child-friendly and welcoming. The children freely explore the playroom using the toys to develop their play, such as when playing with the train and road set. Toys and resources are stimulating, interesting and age appropriate so the children spend their time purposefully as they happily play and explore. The children are able to see and choose which toys they want to play with as they are

stored in opaque boxes and low level labelled shelving. The childminder stores many of the toys in the shed and rotates them to maintain children's interests and to fit in with her planning for the children's development. She has cards depicting the toys available so children are able to choose what they want to play with.

Children are carefully supervised when they are with the childminder as she is very safety conscious and attentive. Children stay safe as the childminder takes positive steps to minimise hazards. She completes risk assessments and uses weekly and daily checklists of her home and garden before children arrive to ensure their safety. Children develop knowledge of their own safety as the childminder talks about road safety and using the toys and equipment safely. For example, she plans topics on safety, including road and fire safety. She displays posters to develop children's understanding through discussions and reinforces their learning as they refer to them during play. The children practise fire evacuation to develop their awareness and confidence in an emergency. The childminder encourages children to help her pack away some of the toys so they do not trip over them. The childminder has exceptionally good procedures in place when taking the children out in the car to ensure their safety in an emergency. She carries a card with her childminding details and the contact details for all the children in her care.

The childminder maintains a comprehensive range of documentation and is proactive in developing her knowledge so children's welfare is safeguarded. For example, the childminder has completed further training in child protection so she has a good knowledge of safeguarding children procedures and is aware of her role and responsibility. Her policies are shared with parents so they are aware of her responsibilities and accident and incident records are completed appropriately. She has appropriate insurance cover in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children very much enjoy their time with the childminder as they receive individual attention and genuine affection from the childminder. Children are able to play safely and select resources freely which develops their confidence and independence skills. The childminder has highly effective interactive skills to develop children's knowledge and understanding and she has an excellent knowledge of the children in her care. The children form close and caring relationships with the childminder which increases their sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self. The childminder has a positive and enthusiastic approach to childcare. Her work with children at the preschool and ongoing training has developed her understanding of how children learn so they receive exceptional support and make good progress in their development. Children take part in a wide variety of activities, which develops new interests and extends their knowledge. For example, they visit the Natural History museum as the children are very interested in dinosaurs. She purchases additional resources to further develop children's interest, such as an interesting dinosaur book and posters for road safety. Children benefit as the childminder plans and provides an enjoyable range of activities and experiences to keep the children happy which are linked to themes. The children visit the fire station and this is linked to fire evacuation practises to develop children's interests and awareness. They learn about road safety as the childminder plans a project on keeping safe. Children participate enthusiastically in craft activities and concentrate well. They are extremely confident, very independent and develop good self-esteem as the childminder encourages them to try new activities and gives them lots of praise. Children select from the varied resources which provide good challenge and enhance all aspects of their learning using laminated picture cards as the childminder is not able to store all the toys in the playroom. The childminder provides exciting

opportunities for children outside her home. They take part in an excellent range of outings that extends their learning, develops social skills and stimulates their interest in the wider world which includes visit local parks. Children have exceptional opportunities to go out on regular outings which are inspiring and educational, such as to St Katherine's Dock and the Tower of London, using bendy buses and trains. Children's learning about the local community and the wider world is significantly enhanced by these outings. Children respond well to the childminder who gets down to their level and follows their lead to ensure they are learning whilst having fun with the road and rail set talking about colours shapes and numbers. The childminder informs parents about how her observations and planning for children's development is linked to the Foundation Stage curriculum and how she links it to the children's interest in dinosaurs, for example.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder forms excellent partnerships with parents which contribute significantly to the children's care and well-being. She offers a very professional service to families using her care and effectively maintains all the required documentation and consents to ensure she meets the children's needs and follows the parents' wishes. All records, policies and procedures are shared with parents to keep them well informed and they sign all relevant documentation including the register, accident and medication records. The childminder has very good systems in place to update contracts and information about the children in her care so she continues to meet their needs. The childminder develops close relationships with the family of children in her care providing long term care for families, often having siblings from the same family. These close trusting relationships ensures children's needs are well known and effectively met. Parents are extremely well informed of their child's achievements and daily care through the option of a daily journal and informal daily discussion. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback of the service provided through regular questionnaires and they provide very positive comments about the care their children receive. The parents are welcomed into the family home and the childminder and all the families using her service meet up for social occasions so they develop close working relationships.

Children develop extremely close relationships with the childminder enjoying plenty of cuddles and positive reinforcement which enables them to be happy, confident and settled. The childminder develops an excellent knowledge of children's individual needs and personalities through her observations, talking to the children and the regular exchange of information with parents. Children are very confident and at home as the childminder uses positive language, gives meaningful praise and values their achievements. They behave well and are very cooperative as the childminder uses age-appropriate strategies to promote positive behaviour. She acts as a good role model and talks to the children with care and respect. She encourages sharing and good manners. The children are learning how to care about their surroundings through daily routines as they help to pack away the toys when there are too many out and before they get out other toys.

The childminder demonstrates a very good awareness of equal opportunities. All the children have free access to the range of toys and activities as the childminder gives support according to their stage of development. This helps them to be successful when using craft materials and completing jigsaws, for example, and develops their self esteem and confidence. Children have good opportunities to become aware of the wider world as the childminder plans activities and has a range of equipment such as play figures, dolls and books to provide positive images and support their awareness of diversity. A welcome poster is displayed on the wall in a wide range

of languages. The childminder provides good opportunities for children to develop respect and learn about differences and their local community and the wider world. She cares for children from diverse family backgrounds and they meet with other adults and children at school and preschool groups. They visit places, such as soft-play centres, and have outings to the local parks, for example.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder has a very good knowledge of the National Standards for childminding and the children receive excellent care. She offers a very professional and friendly service to families and maintains all the required documentation and keeps parents very well informed. She is very experienced and has a warm, caring, attentive manner. Children benefit from the consistent routines and effective support as she closely supervises the children at all times. The organisation of the childminder's time and care means children receive individual support and attention.

The childminder maintains a comprehensive range of documentation which is well organised and is used effectively to underpin her practice. She develops excellent relationships with parents and uses a variety of means to keep them informed of their children's development and progress and to make sure the children's needs are well known. This ensures she is able to effectively promote the welfare, care and learning of the children.

The childminder is enthusiastic about her childminding and she is highly motivated and attends regular training opportunities including behaviour management, story sacks, food hygiene, first aid and Makaton training to support children with additional learning and development needs. She is part of an approved childminding network and receives monitoring visits from the coordinator. This contributes to the high quality of care as she uses the visits to improve her practice, identify any training needs and increase her knowledge and skills. Overall, 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 required to develop knowledge of infectious notifiable diseases and devise and implement a system to record any incident of physical restraint. The childminder has made excellent progress as she sought out information from the local health advisor and obtained a list of notifiable diseases which she keeps readily to hand. She is aware she needs to notify Ofsted if any children in her care have any of the illnesses on the list. The childminder has a book to record any incidents of physical restraint should there be any. These measures ensure children's welfare is safeguarded.

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

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The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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