

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	402732
Inspection date	12 February 2008
Inspector	Liz Corr
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 1992. She lives with her two adult children, in a three bedroom house in the E8 area of the London borough of Hackney. Areas to be used for childminding are the conservatory, living room and toilet facilities on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and is currently caring for four children under eight years. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and her local childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the positive measures in place to ensure their physical, nutritional and health needs are promoted. The home is clean and the childminder follows hygienic practises for nappy changing and preparation of food. Children are learning about the importance of personal hygiene. While sharing a book about meal times, the childminder talks to the children

about why they need to wash their hands before eating. However, individual hand towels are not provided to help prevent the risk of cross infection.

Clear policies to promote children's health are in place and shared with parents. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate and documentation to record accidents and medication administration. However, permission has not been provided by parents for emergency medical treatment.

Children are provided with a generally healthy range of home cooked meals each day. They enjoy snacks of fresh fruit and drinking water is provided through the day to help them remain hydrated. Children are provided with regular opportunities to develop physical skills and enjoy fresh air as they visit local parks and drop-in groups. This helps to promote a healthy life style.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally well organised and child friendly environment. They access resources independently, equipment is clean and in a good state of repair. However, some items of gym equipment have not been stored safely and children have not been prevented from accessing the kitchen which, has not been adequately risk assessed. Consequently, this does not fully promote children's safety.

Children benefit from the childminder's procedures for fire safety. Appropriate fire equipment such as, a fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to evacuate in an emergency. However, the records for evacuation do not contain sufficient details.

Children are learning how to keep safe outdoors. They practice road safety awareness with the childminder on outings or on the way back from school. They are reminded to look both ways and to cross at designated crossings.

Children benefit from the childminder's sound knowledge of child protection procedures. She has appropriate policies and procedures in place to report concerns about a child's welfare, or if an allegation is made against her or her family.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy an effective range of activities and play experiences. They spend much of their time in an area of the home that has been well organised with a good selection of play materials. However, equipment for children aged over five years has not been fully developed. Posters to support children's understanding of numbers, time and the alphabet decorate the walls. Play resources are easily accessible which supports their independence as they choose equipment that interests them.

Children's learning is promoted during story time. One child enjoys checking if the toy fruit and vegetables from the imaginary play set are listed in one of the books. The childminder encourages their interest as she helps name some of the more unfamiliar fruits and vegetables. Children are gaining confidence in recognising numbers, letters and colours during story sessions and informal discussions.

Children respond well to the childminder, warm, caring relationships are evident. Young children and babies are provided with stimulating equipment and the childminder has updated her knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework. However, she has not fully introduced a range of natural materials to promote their skills to explore and investigate.

Children benefit from an interesting range of activities outside the home. They have regular opportunities to socialise with other children at local drop-in groups. One child is pleased as the childminder reminds them of an activity they took part in the day before. Their art work has been displayed at the setting which helps promote their self esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well known to the childminder, as she records useful information about them at the beginning of their contract. Their family backgrounds are valued and respected and the childminder is knowledgeable about their religious beliefs. She promotes an inclusive atmosphere as she explains that some people have different beliefs and cultures. Children access equipment and books that promote positive images of diversity.

Children have clear boundaries that they understand. Good behaviour is encouraged as they are praised and encouraged while they play. They receive lots of attention and are well occupied. Consequently, they are happy and well behaved.

Parents are provided with clear information about the service. For instance, there are procedures for sickness, child protection and complaints, including details of the regulator. There are good systems in place for sharing information with parents about each child on a daily basis. This has a positive impact on the children's overall well-being and development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from an effective environment where they are able to make choices by easily accessing play equipment. The childminder organises her time well so children have a balance of home based and group activities.

The childminder has developed good procedures to support her childminding role. Satisfactory safety procedures include, practising emergency evacuations with the children. However, some aspects of safety have not been maintained, including preventing children from accessing the kitchen and safe storage of cleaning materials and exercise equipment.

Documentation and individual records for each child are well maintained, with the exception of permission for emergency medical treatment. The childminder has a secure understanding of the National Standards for Childminding and regularly updates her knowledge through regular courses. She has developed systems for support through her local childminding network. Consequently, she is aware of new developments in childminding.

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 improve the supervision of children and to ensure that the stairs were made inaccessible.

The childminder demonstrates that she has procedures in place to ensure children are appropriately supervised. A safety gate has been fitted to the stair case to ensure that the children can no longer access the stairs. Therefore, the provision for children's safety has improved.

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 parents provide written permission for emergency medical treatment and improve hygiene facilities for hand drying
- improve safety by preventing access to the kitchen and improving the storage of cleaning materials and gym equipment

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