

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	402901
Inspection date	20 February 2008
Inspector	Kanwal Sonia Lobo

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 has been registered since 2001. She lives in a two bedroom house with her two children aged six and 16 years old in Crouch End within the London Borough of Haringey. The family have a cat. The areas of the home that are used for childminding purposes are the living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and the bathroom. The rear garden is used for outdoor play.

There are currently two children on roll aged under five years who attend at different times and days of the week. There are no children who have a disability or learning difficulties. The childminder holds the Introducing Childminding Practice certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The home is warm and welcoming. The childminder makes sure that all areas used by children are always clean and tidy and as a result, they are comfortable. Children are sometimes encouraged to wash their hands. But systems are evolving to ensure that hand washing with

children is practised consistently at all appropriate times and therefore is not yet integral to their routine. Suitable nappy changing routines serve to minimise the risk of cross infection.

All food is provided by the parents. Children eat their snacks and lunches under the supervision of the childminder and they are able to eat at their own pace. The childminder has an adequate understanding of the importance of eating healthily and is working with parents towards ensuring, for example, that children always snack on healthy foods which are nutritious and good for them.

Children receive suitable care in the event of an accident or injury as the childminder has a first aid box and maintains a current first aid qualification. There are some opportunities for children to receive fresh air and exercise as they enjoy walking to the local park. Children engage in more energetic activities, such as jumping on the trampoline in the rear garden, weather permitting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's risk to injury is reduced through the childminder offering high levels of supervision. Children are able to play safely and freely as she has taken positive steps to reduce potential hazards. Although the childminder completes regular safety checks she also undertakes risk assessments at other times, for example, when a new piece of equipment is introduced, such as the trampoline. Consequently, children are able to have fun whilst they play as careful consideration is given to their safety. Children's safety is further promoted as the childminder regularly checks the smoke alarms to ensure they are in working order and practises an emergency escape plan with them.

Children benefit from using equipment that is in good condition and readily available to meet their individual needs, such as a travel cot, baby monitor and suitable car restraints.

Young children are learning to keep themselves safe as the childminder talks to them, for example, about the need to be mindful of toys that are out on the floor so they don't trip and hurt themselves. She uses gentle reminders of personal safety at other times, such as when young toddlers use the stairs or the steps. They are growing increasingly aware of their own safety whilst on outings too, as the childminder uses reins at appropriate times to keep them close to her.

Children are safeguarded through the sound knowledge the childminder has of child protection issues and she is fully aware of her responsibility to put children first. She has suitable procedures in place which she would follow if she became concerned about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are familiar with the routines in place to meet their needs. They approach the childminder at times for support and are able to express their needs or concerns without hesitation. This means they feel secure and are able to initiate their own play. Children are engaged in a range of purposeful tasks that are age appropriate. Activities and resources are organised for them in advance and they happily select from what is made available. They are also able to select more resources independently when the toy box is open and at other times confidently express what they want to play with.

Younger children have some good chances to express them creatively as they are involved in activities such as, sticking and junk modelling. They enjoy, for example, gluing pieces of brightly coloured tissue and feathers to decorate the pair of binoculars they made. They have lots of fun playing with the childminder as they find it interesting and funny looking at one another through the binoculars they made earlier.

The interaction between the childminder and the children is warm. The childminder uses positive and sensitive language to help keep children successfully engaged in the task. She skilfully reinforces their learning through play. For example, whilst children post various coloured shapes into the shape sorter she consolidates their learning through reinforcing the shape and colour they select.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Young children gain a positive image of themselves and others as they play with some resources which reflect different races and cultures. For example, puzzles and books depict positive images and are used by the children. The childminder shows a developing knowledge of the types of activities that can help to improve younger children's chances to identify with their own beliefs, culture and that of others.

The childminder leads by example and communicates with children in a sensitive and clear manner. They are offered explanations that are in line with their level of understanding and maturity and this

helps children understand their actions and promote acceptable behaviour. Children respond well to the attention and praise they receive.

Children are settled and comfortable in the care of the childminder. This is a result of the close relationships with parents. She shares with them an informative folder with details of the service she offers and a selection of written policies and procedures.

The childminder has devised and displayed a written statement for parents in the event they should wish to make a complaint including the details of the regulator although, it does not reflect the current address and telephone number. The childminder is yet to develop her knowledge of the procedure to follow and consequently, her understanding is not fully in line with current guidance and legislation.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the care and attention the childminder provides. They are comfortable in a setting which is well organised to meet their individual needs. The childminder organises the day to include a variety of activities both indoors and by attending regular drop-in groups. As a result, children have further opportunities to develop their social skills.

The childminder is keen to keep up-to-date with current practice and shows a strong commitment in accessing further training. All the required documentation is in place, easily accessible for inspection and is shared with parents to keep them informed about the service provided. Some information is prominently displayed on a notice board for parents to view at any time which

includes, for example, the certificate of registration and an emergency escape plan. Children's individual records are well organised and stored safely to maintain confidentiality.

Overall, the provision does meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder ensures that she checks the contents of the first aid box frequently and replaces items as necessary. The fire blanket, which conforms to British safety standards, is now accessible and sited appropriately in the kitchen.

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):

- continue to improve the good health of children by, for example, ensuring that hand washing forms an integral part of their daily care routines.
- improve and secure knowledge of regulatory duties with regard to dealing with complaints so that it is line with current guidance and legislation.
- continue to improve younger children's chances to identify with their own beliefs, culture and that of others through, for example, providing activities to help them appreciate and value each others' similarities and differences.

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