

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	504328
Inspection date	25 January 2008
Inspector	Amanda Gill
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 with her husband and three children aged 18, 14 and 11 years in a terraced house in a residential area of Dagenham East. Her home is within walking distance of shops, Dagenham East Underground Station and John Perry school.

The childminder is registered to care for five children aged from one to under eight years of age. There are currently five children on roll aged from one to seven years of age. There were three children present at inspection.

Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor of the premises with toilet and sleep facilities in this area. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and regularly attends childminder drop-in groups.

The family keep some fish as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is suitably promoted and they are protected from infection as the childminder is well informed about children's health matters. She is aware of appropriate exclusion times for children when they have a contagious illness and agrees all measures with parents prior to minding. The childminder is confident in her ability to deal with minor accidents or medical emergencies and has a current first aid certificate and a comprehensive first aid kit which is checked and restocked when appropriate. Written consent, accident and medication records are in place. In the case of a serious accident the childminder records these well, however, the childminder does not record any minor injuries or incidents where no wound is visible.

Children are made welcome in this warm and clean home environment where they are able to learn the importance of good personal hygiene from an early age through well-organised routines and practices. They learn that they should wash their hands after using the toilet, after playing in the garden, getting messy through arts and crafts and when they come back from the park to prevent germs accumulating.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. They take part in regular outdoor exercise, for example, they take walks and play in the local park. Children enjoy playing in the garden and there are a number of resources such as a trampoline, parachute, cars, trains, bean bags, bats and balls to enhance this play.

Parents provide meals for their children which the childminder makes suitable arrangements to store and prepare. She ensures surfaces are clean and checks the temperature of food before serving to the children. The childminder provides snacks for the children, which are mainly fruit.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and well maintained environment. They have access to a selection of age appropriate resources and equipment that are checked and cleaned regularly. There is sufficient space for the children to move around freely as the through lounge area is set as a play room for the children.

The childminder has taken steps to minimise possible hazards around the home. For example, all cleaning materials are kept inaccessible to children and stair gates are used to ensure children are kept within areas of the home they are allowed. To minimise hazards in the event of a fire, smoke alarms have been fitted to both floors of the home and a fire blanket and extinguisher have been fitted in the kitchen.

Children's safety is promoted very well because the childminder is meticulous in ensuring her home stays safe for the children. Children are therefore able to develop their natural curiosity and explore the home freely and in safety. Children are also protected when out of the home because the childminder carefully considers potential hazards. For example, children learn about road safety when out on walks and learn to cross the road safely. Children learn effectively about the actions they have to take to keep themselves safe as they grow in independence.

Children are protected because the childminder has a good understanding of her role in safeguarding all children. She has covered child protection training during her CACHE courses

and is clear in her responsibilities. The childminder maintains regular, informal communication with parents which develop strong partnerships between all those involved in keeping children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled as they enjoy a warm and affectionate relationship with the childminder as they are offered lots of cuddles and given constant attention. Children are kept engaged during their time with the childminder, for example, when becoming restless with an activity children are quickly introduced with something else that captures their interest. The childminder makes the environment child centred as she arranges toys attractively for children to choose from. Other toys and activities are stored at low level giving children the freedom to select independently.

Children have good opportunities for both their spontaneous play and those activities planned by the childminder such as craft activities. Children are motivated because they enjoy what they do and have a range of resources readily available to them to develop their own games and ideas. Children are given lots of praise and encouragement which also fosters their self-esteem, promotes a positive attitude to learning and develops their confidence. For example, lots of praise was given as the children did the washing and ironing and made cups of tea in the large play kitchen.

The childminder provides children with a positive role model because she talks with the parents when they stay for an informal chat at the end of each day. She talks to young children explaining what they are doing which encourages children to link words with actions. All children share books, learn songs and act out familiar roles when they 'pretend play', making teas and coffees for the childminder and her husband. Children also enjoy watching and interacting with DVD's on the television about festivals and enjoy singing along to the songs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children have good relationships with the childminder. Younger children respond well to signs of affection such as cuddles. The childminder verbalises well with the younger children promoting communication. Children have a very strong sense of belonging because they are made to feel valued as part of an extended family and relate very well to the childminder and her husband.

The childminder acts as a good role model using positive language and displaying good manners. Children's behaviour is managed well. They benefit from the consistency that has been established through discussions between the childminder and parents, to agree strategies that are also used at home. Children receive praise from the childminder, helping them to feel valued and to develop a sense of achievement. When children display negative behaviour, the childminder uses warnings or a few minutes time out where she will talk to children about their behaviour. This helps children learn a sense of what is right and wrong and to think about and understand the consequences of their actions. Positive reinforcement and lots of praise is a strategy the childminder uses to avoid negative behaviour as she constantly tells the children, 'well done'.

The childminder has a sound understanding of equal opportunities and how to implement this with the children in her care. Children gain an awareness of people from other cultures and with differing needs through the resources which the childminder provides. They discuss festivals of all religions at the appropriate times of the year and take part in activities which help them to learn about different cultures many ideas taken from DVD's that the childminder has purchased. For example, they enjoyed making sweets at Eid and plan to make dragons for Chinese New Year. They are also able to communicate their own needs and beliefs in a supportive environment.

No children attending currently have learning difficulties and/or disabilities but the childminder is aware of the issues involved and the implications for care of her own and other minded children.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children's needs are met. She offers them daily verbal feedback and ensures that they are kept informed of relevant information from their home. The childminder ensures parents are made aware of the complaints procedure and receive information from the childminder on how to make a complaint, including details of the regulator. This supports children's individual needs, ensures children receive consistent care, and helps them feel a sense of security and belonging.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are protected because the childminder ensures that all non-vetted persons do not have unsupervised access to children. Children's needs are met effectively because the childminder ensures that the required adult to child ratios are met. The childminder has attended the required training course for childminders and is currently booked to attend training on the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder is keen to develop her knowledge and skills to benefit the children and has a valid first aid certificate in place. Children's overall care, learning and welfare are enhanced by the information that is regularly shared between parents and the childminder.

The childminder organises herself and the home to enable children to enjoy a safe and child focused environment. They make independent choices and are supported by the childminder. Children are happy and secure. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At her last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure details of OFSTED are available to parents in the complaints procedure. The childminder has implemented a verbal complaints procedure that she discuss with parents at registration. The childminder ensures that parents also receive a copy of the regulator's details. There have been no complaints received to date.

The childminder also agreed to improve fire safety precautions by maintaining a smoke alarm on the first floor in working order and practise evacuation plan regularly with the children. The smoke alarms are now tested weekly to ensure they are maintained to a safe standard. All children are aware of the emergency evacuation procedure and explained this thoroughly at inspection. This improvement ensures the safety and well-being of the children.

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 all accidents or incidents where no wound may be visible are recorded

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