

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY240770
Inspection date	20 November 2007
Inspector	Rufia Uddin
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and one year. They live in a house in a quiet residential area close to the local schools and within walking distance of the local shops, and park in the London borough of Redbridge. The whole of the ground floor of the house is mainly used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

There are currently three children on roll. The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups and the local park and drives to the local school to take and collect children.

The childminder holds a relevant level three childcare qualification. She is also a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of following good hygiene procedures and are encouraged to follow good hygiene practices as they talk about why it is important to wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals. She discusses children's individual health requirements with parents and carers to ensure issues are thoroughly addressed. There are good plans for attending to children who take ill, whilst in her care and for excluding children who have a contagious disease. The childminder has completed relevant first aid training, which enables her to manage children's minor accidents competently. The accident record and medication record are maintained and information shared appropriately with parents and carers.

Children's dietary requirements are well met. There are good arrangements in place to fully discuss issues with parents and to ensure children receive regular drinks and a broad range of healthy meals or snacks suited to their individual dietary needs. The childminder sits with the children at mealtimes, promoting self help, whilst supporting them well. All children are learning to make healthy choices, socialise with one another and use good table manners.

Children benefit from good regular activities that enhance their health and well-being. For example, they enjoy daily walks and regular outings, such as going to the park, library and childminding group. The childminder makes good use of the garden enabling children to use large equipment, such as the climbing frame, slides and bikes as well as enjoying opportunities to use bats and balls, developing their co-ordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm, welcoming environment which is well organised to meet their needs. Premises are equipped with a broad range of toys and resources which are stored accessibly to promote children's choice and independence. All resources and equipment are regularly checked and maintained in a clean and safe condition.

Children's safety is given careful consideration. The childminder ensures children are closely supervised and she takes good steps to minimise potential hazards, indoors and out. For example, hazardous materials, glassware and sharp knives are stored out of children's reach. Safety equipment, such as socket covers and safety gates, are in place. Children are very well protected regarding fire safety. Smoke detectors are maintained on both floors and a fire blanket is stored in the kitchen. A formal evacuation procedure has been identified and is frequently practised with children, so they know what to do in an emergency. They are also learning good road safety practices when they are walking out of doors, such as how to use the pelican crossing safely. The childminder discusses and agrees outing arrangements with parents and there are consents regarding outings and transportation.

Children's welfare and wellbeing are safeguarded as the childminder has an understanding of child protection recording and reporting procedures. The childminder recognises her strengths and identifies areas for development, and understands the importance of attending training and increasing her skills to enhance her practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's home. They are well motivated and concentrate well at chosen activities. The childminder has a daily routine with the children which includes planned and free activities. Children play in the playroom where their independence is fostered as they can choose between a variety of toys, books and age appropriate activities which are available to them. Children are developing good imaginative skills, for example, they use small world resources as they pretend to make lunch. They pursue their imaginative and creative ideas through a range of media, including paints, sticking, cutting, play dough, listening to and playing music, stories, small world play and dressing up. They are developing fine motor skills, for example, as they manipulate puzzle pieces into jigsaws.

The childminder encourages children and allows them to develop at their own pace, yet offers help and support when required. She praises them for their efforts, which helps children to take pride in their achievements.

Children are learning mathematical skills through good activities, such as action rhymes that teach them about number and shape. They are also developing a good appreciation for the written word through handling books independently or listening to stories. The childminder consistently asks open-ended questions to encourage children to work through problems for themselves with support around size and shape when trying to complete puzzles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and have appropriate opportunities to learn about themselves and the wider world. They have access to adequate play resources designed to develop their understanding of diversity, including posters, books, small world people and skin tone crayons. They are learning about differing abilities, diversity and the wider world as they access relevant resources or take part in activities at the local library, toddler groups and children centres. The childminder has an understanding of how to support children with learning difficulties/disabilities and has a written policy concerning additional needs. The childminder recognises her strengths and identifies areas for development and understands the importance of attending training and increasing her skills to enhance her practice.

Children are well behaved and show good care and concern for each other. The childminder uses positive behaviour management practices, well suited to children's levels of understanding and maturity. For example, children are closely supervised, realistic boundaries are set and sensitively reinforced and the childminder uses appropriate speech and clear explanations so children know what is expected of them. Children benefit from the childminder's friendly and professional relationship with parents. The childminder makes parents welcome in her home and shares written and verbal information with parents on a daily basis to keep them well informed about their child's progress and day. Formal policy statements are well used to share relevant information consistently. Parents are encouraged to comment on the service provided for their child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children receive good quality care and benefit because the childminder has a good understanding about how young children learn. They are happy and settled with the childminder. All children are closely supervised and effectively supported. They enjoy good learning opportunities, including adult-led activities and occasions when they are able to initiate and extend their own play and learning and to develop at their own pace. As a result, they are learning new skills and developing well.

Good recordkeeping takes place. Records are easily retrievable, with a good range of written policies and procedures in place, which all parents are aware of. All relevant information is recorded in children's record forms, which are suitably stored in a confidential manner. A daily register is kept and this includes times of arrival and departure.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

In the last inspection the childminder was asked to introduce a system for recording complaints and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has developed a system to record complaints according to sample complaints log.

She has updated the child detail's form to include permission for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice. The childminder has now obtained written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Therefore, children's care and welfare have been 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):

- improve knowledge and understanding of Safeguarding Children
- improve knowledge and understanding of children with learning difficulties/disabilities.

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