

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY259674
Inspection date	01 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, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, two children aged 19 and 12, and her newly born niece. They live in a house in a quiet residential area and within walking distance of the local schools, shops and park in Ilford in the London borough of Redbridge. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

There are currently two children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a warm and clean environment where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. Children are encouraged to develop good hygiene practice through the daily routine. They are able to access the bathroom independently and have a clear

understanding of why they must wash their hands after using the toilet as this reduces the risk of passing on germs. Children's health is generally promoted as the childminder has relevant first aid training and implements effective hygiene procedures to minimise the risk of infection, for example when preparing meals and responding to accidents. However parental consent to seek emergency medical advice and/or treatment has not been obtained. Consequently children may not receive the best response in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children have good opportunities to develop and maintain healthy bodies. They move freely around the environment, are taken out daily in the fresh air and visit shops and parks with the childminder. Children are at times engaged in activities which contribute to their health such as playing on climbing apparatus and slides, riding bikes and playing with balls in the garden. Children's individual dietary and religious requirements are fully respected with regards to the food and drink they are given and the arrangements made at meal times. They enjoy healthy snacks, such as fresh fruits, and develop in independence as they learn to feed themselves. The childminder provides children with a wide variety of healthy balanced meals and shares menus with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure home where risks are identified and minimised. The children can explore and enjoy the well-equipped premises. They have independent access to a suitable and safe range of equipment and play provision, which is suited to their ages and stages of development. There are good procedures to ensure the provision is regularly checked, kept clean and maintained. The childminder has taken positive steps to identify risks and to remove potential hazards allowing children to play in a safe environment. The childminder has given thought to fire safety to protect children, she has smoke detection and fire fighting equipment available and is aware of safe practice and exits from the home. The childminder makes sure that children are kept safe on outings. They always hold the childminder's hand when out walking and know they must never run in the road. Children's understanding of road safety is promoted well. They discuss potential dangers as they walk to school, and learn to 'stop', 'look' and 'listen' when crossing the road.

Children are well protected and safeguarded from harm because the childminder has a good understanding of her role with regards to child protection issues. She has completed child protection awareness training and is aware of the different types of abuse, recognising possible signs and symptoms that may cause concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children confidently play and enjoy the activities provided. They are settled gradually into the childminder's care to make sure that they and their parents get to know her well before the childminding placement begins. Children have warm, affectionate relationships with the childminder and are happy and secure in her care. They are familiar with the home environment and enjoy the freedom they have to move between rooms. For example, they happily go for a walk with the toy buggy from the playroom down the hall and back. The childminder displays children's artwork and the playroom has educational posters displayed to provide a stimulating, child friendly environment for play and learning.

The childminder has a daily routine with the children which includes planned and free activities. Children have good access to a wide range of age appropriate resources which promote learning and they actively occupy themselves exploring different toys. Children's independence is fostered as they can choose between a variety of toys, books and age appropriate activities which are available to them. For example children are occupied lying on the carpet playing together with cars and a toy petrol station and then engage in colouring and drawing. Children enjoy their time when they return from school as the childminder is sensitive to balancing the school day with relaxation and interesting activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well into the welcoming environment. They have a sense of belonging and develop warm relationships with the childminder and each other. Children make regular visits to local facilities such as the nursery, parks, and shops and therefore learn about their local environment and community. Children have access to a satisfactory range of resources which promote positive images of diversity.

The childminder has attended a training course on "Working with Disabled Children" and a "Special Needs Training Programme". The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards caring for children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties. She has no experience of caring for children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties. The childminder is aware of the importance of working closely with parents and professionals.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder uses effective methods for managing behaviour, this helps children to understand the needs of others. They show care and concern for each other, play together harmoniously and behave well. Children benefit from the good relationships between their parents and the childminder. She informs parents of their children's day by giving verbal feedback. She informs parents about how to complain and to whom.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's appropriately managed childminding service. They are happy, settled and confident in her care. The childminder has an understanding of the National Standards for Childminding and her responsibility to comply with these and the conditions of her registration. The childminder has created an organised environment in which she offers support to the children to support the children's care, learning and play. Children benefit because the childminder makes good use of time and resources in her home and local community, enabling them to engage in a wide range of stimulating and exciting learning experiences suitable to their individual needs and interests.

Children benefit from the childminder's ongoing interest in and commitment to further training. The childminder has attended all required training courses. She is developing her knowledge and understanding of good childcare practice by attending various relevant training courses, including "Behaviour Management" and "Food Hygiene". She maintains most of the necessary documentation to support her practice and this is securely filed.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

In the last childcare inspection the childminder was asked to ensure Ofsted are informed of any person over 16 who are living in the household, conduct a full risk assessment to ensure premises are made safe and to develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and the London Child Protection Procedures.

The childminder has informed Ofsted of the people living in her home. The childminder has attended Child Protection Awareness Training and she recognises possible signs and symptoms that may cause concerns and indicate that children may be at risk. Effective systems are in place to ensure the safe arrival and collection of children. The childminder now has a copy of the Child Protection Procedures. The childminder now carries out risk assessments on her premises.

In the last childcare inspection the childminder was also asked to develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunity issues and ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has obtained some play resources that reflect positive images of different groups in society and has attended various training courses such as 'Working with Disabled children'. This all helps to promote children's safety, welfare and development.

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):

- obtain parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities issues and ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

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