

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY269356
Inspection date	07 December 2007
Inspector	Arda Halls
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 2004. She lives with one grown-up child aged 19 years in the Harrow Road area of the City of Westminster. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding six children, one child full time and two children under five part time. In addition there are three children over five part time after school.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local play groups and is a member of a local childminder support group. The family have a dog and cat as pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and hygiene is promoted as the childminder sustains a good level of cleanliness throughout her home. The premises are warm, clean and well maintained. Children are learning

about personal hygiene as the childminder has procedures in place to help stop the spread of germs, for example children wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. They learn about cleaning the table with antiseptic wipes and they agree it is a 'pretty smell'. The dog is locked out of the kitchen during meal times. Children have their own bags in the bathroom with their own flannel and toothbrush. They are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they have an infection, a list of infectious diseases and exclusion times is readily available. Children are safeguarded by the childminder's good understanding of emergency first aid measures. Records of the administration of medication are kept on file, however, the last entry does not specify the exact medicine administered.

Children participate in a range of daily outdoor play activities, for fresh air and exercise which promotes their well-being and helps them to acquire good physical skills. They go to local parks for a walk, visit the playgroups and play in the garden on a regular basis.

Children enjoy nutritious meals and snacks which establish healthy eating habits from an early age. Home cooked foods are listed on a printed menu. Days are also set aside for children to go out for meals. Their dietary requirements are taken into account which ensures that their individual food preferences are met.

Children are aware that they can ask for drinks at anytime, they can also help themselves as their beakers are left on the chest of toys for easy access.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming family home. There is a good use made of space to help children to explore independently, and to rest, eat and play comfortably. Children are gaining independence and self-confidence because the childminder encourages them to make choices and explore their toys. They can also self select toys for themselves from easily accessible boxes. The door to the garden is kept open at the back of the house. The garden is temporarily out of use as some of the wooden decking is not safe.

Suitable, well-maintained toys and equipment are available to meet the children's individual needs, which are appropriate for their age and development. Children are safeguarded as the childminder checks the toys and equipment on a regular basis to reduce any hazards.

Children are cared for in a child focused environment where risks are identified and reduced to safeguard the children. Safety gates are in place at the entrance to the kitchen and there is no low level glass accessible to children. However, perfumes are accessible at a low level in the bathroom which some of the children are able to visit unaccompanied. Well organised emergency escape plans are clearly displayed and drills are practised regularly. Children are learning about keeping themselves safe, for example when children bring in small rocks they are removed from them and it is explained that it is not safe.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. The childminder has a competent understanding of the procedures for reporting any concerns and a good understanding of the importance of recording any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy looking at books, they discuss the rabbits and ducks in the story, and they wiggle their noses and make animal sounds. They like lifting the flaps of the book to examine the surprises. They ask lots of questions and listen carefully to the answers. The children are learning good systems of communication and they are learning to take turns as they participate in the stories.

They listen to a variety of music playing softly in the background. They enjoy talking to the childminder and her daughter, and playing with the dog. They carefully examine an exciting array of toys and collectibles in the treasure basket. Children can easily access the toys that are boxed, some are see through and children can easily determine what is available. This helps children to become confident and self-assured as they have plenty of choice and a chance to play with what they like for extended periods of time.

Questions are constantly asked about the books that are examined. Children listen as songs inspired from characters in the books are spontaneously sung. Children learn to be gentle with the books as they excitedly open the flaps. They are learning about how to care for books and they are given plenty of opportunities to choose their favourite books. Books of photographs are the special favourites. They discuss the photos and ask about everything in the pictures. Children follow their life story as pictures retell their time with the childminder from the time they were tiny babies. This helps children to feel valued and strengthens the bond between home and the childminder, which contributes towards the children feeling happy and secure.

Children visit the museums and go on sponsored walks to raise money for the childminder groups in the area. These outings help children to socialise with others and to learn about life outside the home which in turn aids their development. Children play with finger puppets and develop puppet voices as they interact with one another. This role play is stimulating to the children and they immerse themselves in the play squealing and laughing as they take on different roles.

Children enjoy playing in sand and water in the garden during summer months as well as playing on the swings and slides in the park. This play is satisfying and relaxes the children as there is no right or wrong way to play in sand or water. As a result it provides great satisfaction for the children. For special occasions children watch videos for short periods of time. This gives children a chance to wind down and a chance to rest, often at the end of a busy day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy at the childminder's home. They are familiar with the daily routine which enables them to feel safe and secure as the childminder follows their normal routine as discussed with their parents. They enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the childminder. The childminder knows the children's individual personalities and needs very well. Children respond to her, and are happy and secure in her care. Children learn about the world they live in as the childminder provides suitable toys and resources, for example there is a varied range of books and toys that reflect different cultures to help children understand the community in which they live. Children are open and have a good awareness of one another through activities such as celebrating black history week, wishing one another Ede Mubarak at the end of Ramadan

and celebrating American thanksgiving. The common thread throughout the various celebrations of festivals is that children have fun while learning about each other.

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare. Through discussion it is apparent that the childminder has a good awareness of disability and inclusion, and would ensure that appropriate care would be given to children and their parents for any special requirements they had.

Children's behaviour is challenging, however, the childminder is developing the children's confidence and self-esteem as she encourages the children in their behaviour. Children are constantly praised in their daily activities, therefore, they are developing a positive self-image of themselves. Appropriate strategies such as distraction are used with children to manage any difficulties that arise. This helps prevent incidents happening. The childminder also uses 'time out' when children refuse to co-operate. This is an effective measure when used sparingly as the childminder explains she gives two and a half minutes of time out for two and a half year old children. Parents are kept fully informed of any behaviour management issues.

Partnership with parents is good. The childminder establishes good working relationships with parents to ensure the well-being of children, and completes and shares information, for example parents are given a parent pack which includes all the policies when they start with the childminder. Contracts and care arrangements are completed with parents and personal details are well recorded. Parents are informed at the end of the day what their children have eaten and what activities they have enjoyed. Parents comment on how their children have benefited from the care given by the childminder which they say takes place in a relaxed, happy and stimulating environment. Parents comment on how at ease they are with their children so well looked after. Another parent comments that she has absolutely no problems in recommending the childminder to others as her children are happy and well cared for. Parents are made welcome during their children's settling-in period including taking part in outings to the local playgroup. This helps children make the transition from home to childminder much less stressful.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There have been no changes to the household since the last inspection. The certificate of registration is clearly displayed in a prominent place for parents to view. Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder as she has a good knowledge and understanding of caring for children, and she meets their care needs effectively. She is warm and affectionate towards the children, therefore, they are relaxed and happy in her care. The childminder organises every day successfully to include a variety of play activities and physical exercise. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress.

Most of the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place such as incident records, accident and medication books, however, there is an omission in recording medication. Documentation is well organised in a file and stored away to maintain confidentiality. Children receive continuity of care as their routines and achievements are shared between parents and the childminder on a regular basis. As a result the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to install a safety gate to the kitchen entrance to minimise potential risks to children. This has been done which means children are better safeguarded.

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve fire safety precautions by reducing any potential hazards in the home and garden, and regularly practising an emergency escape plan. Fire safety precautions have been improved which helps keep children safe. There are safety issues in the garden to be addressed. However, the garden is temporarily out of use as the childminder is awaiting repair work to be done.

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

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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 records of the administration of medication state the specific medication given
- make perfumes inaccessible and garden surfaces safe

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