

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137505
Inspection date	14 November 2007
Inspector	Audrey Opal Ufot
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 1999. She lives with her partner in Kensal Green, in the London Borough of Brent. The ground floor, and two rooms on the first floor of the house, are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. There are currently four children aged under five years on roll.

The childminder attends the local drop-in groups, and is a member of the National Childminder Association. The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and friendly home environment. Their health is promoted because the childminder sustains a good level of cleanliness throughout her home. Children are learning the routines for good hygiene practice as the childminder teaches them good

self-care skills, to wash their hands before snack and lunch, and after using the bathroom. Younger children's faces are wiped with wet wipes. The use of anti-bacterial spray when cleaning nappy changing mat, and use disposable gloves when changing children's nappies helps to maintain high standards and protects children from cross infection.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a sound knowledge of emergency first aid. She has kept herself up-to-date with first aid training and maintains a well stocked first aid box. There are systems in place to record accidents and medication. These support consistency of care and help to promote children's wellbeing.

Children benefit from a good healthy diet because the meals and snacks are balanced and nutritious. Children are developing an understanding about healthy eating. For example, for lunch children are offered chicken in a pumpkin sauce with pasta and for dessert lightly stewed pears. The childminder provides the children with drinking water in their beakers at lunch and at other times a drink of milk is offered. Children really enjoy meal times, as they sit comfortably either in their highchairs or at the table; they say 'mmm' as they eat their lunch, showing their appreciation. Children begin to develop good independence as younger children attempt to feed themselves with the childminder's support and encouragement. Older children use their favourite spoons with confidence. Children's individual health requirements are managed effectively through good communication with parents and the childminder gives daily verbal feedback to parents.

Children are developing well physically, as there are appropriate times set aside for sleep, rest and play. They participate in a range of daily outdoor play activities for fresh air and exercise, which promotes their wellbeing and helps them to acquire good physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming family home. The environment is well organised and maintained, so that children can sleep, rest, eat and play comfortably. Children are gaining independence and self-confidence because the childminder encourages them to make choices and explore their toys. For example, a range of enticing play materials is displayed on the floor, for crawling babies and toddlers. Children are also encouraged to be independent as they can self-select toys from an easily accessible low level storage unit.

Children choose from a good range of toys and equipment. These are appropriate for their ages and stages of development. The childminder regularly risk assesses the toys and equipment to reduce any hazards. Children have access to furniture and equipment that meets their individual needs. For example, separate travel cots and beddings are used at sleep times. Also at meal times, highchairs are available for their use.

Children are cared for in a child focused environment where risks are identified. Children are kept safe by the good range of safety measures the childminder has in place. For example, there are safety gates at the entrance to the kitchen and at the bottom of the stairs and a fire blanket is appropriately positioned in the kitchen. The childminder has devised an emergency evacuation plan which she practises with the children. Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. For example, she knows the indicators of abuse and the procedures for reporting any concerns. She has kept her knowledge current by attending further training in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have fun and play enthusiastically with a very good range of stimulating toys and resources, which promote their learning. They spend their time purposefully and are making good progress in all areas of their development, as the childminder has a very good understanding of how children learn and make progress through play.

The childminder has a caring relationship with the children. This establishes the children's confidence and self esteem. She knows the children well and effectively meets their individual needs. Children settle well and feel confident at the childminder's home. For example, children get excited and point to the door indicating the postman has arrived. Children gain independence and self-confidence because the childminder encourages them to make choices and explore their toys.

Children begin to make early attempts at finding their voice. They make babbling sounds to let the childminder know what they want. Older children chat with the childminder who encourages the children to develop their communication skills. Children relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular visits to local drop-in groups.

Children have fun as they sing along to familiar songs, rock their bodies and spin around. They are curious and excited by the range of activities available, such as colour and shape stacking activities. Children enjoy exploring a wide range of resources, which contribute to their imagination. They enjoy themselves as they role-play, for example, pretending they are at the supermarket pushing their trolley.

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. Children's individual needs are recorded and updated as required through a dialog book. There are resources that reflect images of differing cultures and abilities. However, these are limited. Children are fully engaged in meaningful play. As a result, they are well behaved and confident. The childminder uses age-appropriate and positive strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise. Children are developing a positive self-image because the childminder praises and encourages them in their daily activities. Children with learning difficulties and disability are welcomed into the childminder's home, and she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare.

Children are content and happy because the childminder has established a good working relationship with their parents. They work together to meet the children's individual care and developmental needs. Clear information is made available to parents about the childminder's approach to aspects of children's care. However, there is no system in place to record any complaint made by parents. Parents are kept well informed about children's achievements and general well-being. Children receive the appropriate care as the childminder discusses and records individual care arrangements with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder. She has a good working knowledge and understanding of caring for children. As a result, children's individual care needs are met effectively. The childminder is warm and caring towards the children, giving them lots of hugs and cuddles.

The childminder organises the day to include a variety of indoor and outdoor play activities. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress is met well. Children feel at home as they receive thoughtful, individual attention to promote their emotional wellbeing.

The indoor environment is laid out to make the most of the available space and maximise children's play opportunities. They are able to make their own choices and freely select toys independently. This supports children in developing their independence and confidence. The childminder has developed her knowledge and skills and holds numerous certificates in childcare. For example, she has attended Birth to Three Matters training which benefits the children.

Children enjoy outings, for example, drop-in groups and the toy library to broaden their learning and to mix with their peers. Children receive continuity of care as their routines and achievements are shared between parents and the childminder. Documentation is very well organised. The childminder keeps all the required records that contribute to children's health, dietary needs, safety and wellbeing. These are shared with parents.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was raised regarding the childminder continuing to develop her knowledge and skills. The childminder has attended many training courses all relevant to the care of young children and her role. As a result, children's overall care has been enhanced.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required Ofsted or the provider to take action.

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 there are systems in place to record any complaints made by parents.

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