

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY280072
Inspection date	07 February 2008
Inspector	Liz Corr
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 her husband and four children aged from 15 years to two years in a four bedroom house situated on three levels. The home is located in the E2 area of the London borough of Tower Hamlets on the borders of Hackney. Areas to be used for childminding are the living room and toilet on the ground floor. A garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time and is currently caring for one child. She is a member of her local childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and welcoming home. Their good health is promoted well. Efficient hygiene procedures are in place as children have their own towels and bed linen. They are learning the importance of personal hygiene as they are fully aware of the need to wash their hands before they eat.

Children are protected by the good measures taken to promote their health. A clear sickness procedure is shared both verbally and in writing with parents. The childminder has maintained an up-to-date first aid certificate and her first aid kit is well stocked. Consequently, children are well cared for if they are unwell or have an accident at the setting.

Children enjoy meals provided by their parents and this is supplemented with a variety of healthy snacks. Fruit is attractively presented to them at snack time. The childminder takes into consideration their favourite fruits and encourages the other children to try the lychees which, one child really enjoys. Children easily access regular drinks of water throughout the day which keeps them hydrated.

Children have regular opportunities for physical exercise and play. They walk to local drop-in groups where they develop their physical skills, as they learn to ride bikes and enjoy soft play sessions. They visit local parks and access the childminder's garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a well organised play space where hazards are minimised. They access resources independently. Furniture and equipment is clean and in a good state of repair and regularly checked for safety. Children understand the importance of tidying away and are learning how to take care of the play equipment. Babies and young children eat comfortably in a high chair and the childminder has plans to acquire equipment for older children to sit comfortably at the table at meal times.

Children's safety is promoted by the use of appropriate fire equipment such as, a fire blanket, and smoke detectors. They learn about fire safety as there is a clear procedure for evacuation in an emergency and the childminder regularly practises this with them.

Children are learning the importance of keeping themselves safe as they have taken part in a local road safety event. They know that it is important to hold the childminder's hand when they are outside. Good procedures are in place to ensure that children are collected only by authorized adults.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted because the childminder has a very good understanding of the signs and signals of abuse. She has effective policies in place if she has concerns about a child or if an allegation is made against her or her family.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a sensitive settling-in period to promote their feelings of security. A well established routine helps children to feel confident in this environment. Outings to local drop in groups are programmed into the weekly plan and this provides a good balance of home based and group activities. Children easily access a range of toys and equipment in the childminder's home including natural play materials but this has not been fully developed. However, they take part in regular group activities which provide a wide range of experiences. They enjoy story sessions which are followed with interesting activities to reinforce their learning. During a recent drop-in session they had a story about a snowy day which was followed with a feet painting activity using white paint on black paper.

Children are happy and settled because the childminder knows them well. They relate well to her as she sits at their level while they play and she reminds them of recent activities they have taken part in. Their art work is displayed in her home and the childminder records what the children have said about their pictures. This is shared with parents and helps promote children's self esteem. They are eager to demonstrate their understanding of numbers and letters as they take part in activities with the childminder and are rewarded with praise for their achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children learn about the world around them through the activities that take place at the local drop-in groups. They access a variety of equipment in the home that reflects positive image of diversity. The childminder knows the children well and has procedures in place to support children whose first language is not English. For example, she asks parents for a list of key words and phrases to help support children.

Children are happy and content as the childminder knows them well. They are well occupied and aware of the daily routine. They are praised and encouraged throughout the day which helps promote their behaviour. When children occasionally misbehave the childminder speaks to them gently. After they have helped to tidy up they proudly tell her they are good therefore, they are developing positive self esteem.

Children benefit from the close working relationship with parents. She has acquired useful information about each child and as a result, is able to meet their individual needs. Daily discussions take place which inform parents of their child's progress. Positive comments have been recorded by parents to express their satisfaction with the level of care their child has received. Clear information is provided for parents in case of complaint, including details of the regulator. This has a positive impact on children's overall well-being and development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards for Childminding. She demonstrates a commitment to extending her knowledge through further training. She has effective support systems in place including her local Early Years Department and her local childminding network. As a result she is well informed of new developments in childminding.

Children are warmly welcomed and encouraged to feel at home in the childminder's care. The childminder uses her time well, interesting activities are provided at home and a range of natural materials are used. The supply of play materials in the home has not been fully extended however, children have a balance of home based and group activities which promote their social skills and overall development.

Documentation relating to childminding is well maintained. A good range of policies and procedures are in place to support her work with children and are shared with parents. This supports children's welfare and provides reassurance to parents that their child's progress is promoted. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve safety in the garden. This has been addressed and has improved the safety for minded children.

She was also asked to improve her supply of play materials and to ensure that equipment reflects positive images of diversity. The supply of equipment has improved and includes some play materials that promote equality of opportunity. However, the supply of play equipment is satisfactory and has not been fully extended to promote children's play experiences.

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):

- continue to develop the supply of play equipment

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