

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY104038
Inspection date	23 January 2008
Inspector	Susan Marriott / Diane Mary O'Neill
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 2002. She lives with her husband and four young adult children in the Vauxhall area of London. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time and is currently caring for three children under five all day on a full time basis and one child before and after school hours three days per week. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends a local toddler group and childminding support group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean home where the childminder takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and the childminder understands good health & hygiene practices. For example, she uses disposable gloves when changing children's nappies and has a 'no outdoor shoes' rule in her living room, where children rest and sleep. The childminder encourages children

to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet, explaining that the process eliminates germs. Children dry their hands on individual towels. Children receive conscientious care if they have an accident or become ill. The childminder controls infection by excluding children who become sick or unwell, implementing her clear written policy. Appropriate documentation is available to record accidents and any medication in accordance with requirements. The childminder holds an appropriate first aid certificate and obtains permission to seek medical advice or treatment so that children receive prompt emergency treatment.

Children take part in regular physical exercise and play. They accompany their childminder on the walk to and from the nursery every day. Children can play in the garden and she makes good use of the local parks, where children can play on fixed equipment. Children enjoy trips to places of educational interest such as the zoo and can run and play boisterous games at a local park. Children can be suitably active and develop their social skills when they visit local childminding groups. These activities routinely contribute towards the development and improvement of children's physical skills and agility.

Young children are able to sleep in a travel cot or rest quietly on the mattress with books, puzzles or short periods of suitably controlled television programmes. Children benefit from nutritious, well-balanced meals and snacks appropriate to their individual needs because the childminder works well with parents. The childminder has a varied selection of books to depict healthy eating in a multi-cultural environment. Children do not become thirsty because they have access to regular drinks throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and their parents and carers receive a truly warm welcome and feel at ease in this friendly and homely environment which is kept suitably clean and tidy. Parents are consulted about their child's routines and preferences to help their child to settle into the home. This results in the childminder being fully informed about the children and enables her to cater effectively for their needs on a day to day basis. Space is used extremely well to ensure that children may play safely under direct supervision at all times. The childminder has taken great care to ensure that the areas available to children are regularly re-decorated and well-maintained. For example, laminate flooring has been laid throughout the ground floor to make cleaning easier. Toys are in a good state of repair and are age-appropriate. Children independently select books, toys and activities from a wide choice stored in labelled drawers and boxes, facilitating self-selection and choice for children.

Children are very safe and well-cared for because the childminder gives high priority to safety within her home. Children are able to move around and play freely and independently because the vigilant childminder has thoughtfully identified and minimised all risks. Domestic safety measures such as socket covers and fire safety equipment are in place. The childminder has a robust written evacuation plan. Children learn to keep themselves safe because the childminder has clear rules and routines in order to maintain their safety inside and outside the home. For example, children are always secured in the high chair. They know that they must remove their shoes when entering the living room and that all food and drink must be consumed whilst sitting at the table.

The childminder positively safeguards children's welfare and has a competent understanding of child protection in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. She keeps

very clear, appropriate documentation, reference information and contact telephone numbers to ensure children's safety and welfare at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is an enthusiastic mother and practitioner. She provides a superb family environment, where children receive lots of affection and cuddles. Minded children form trusting relationships with this childminder who joins in play and actively promotes learning through expert interaction. For example, a jolly music tape plays in the background and the childminder dances and sings to the children whilst preparing their lunch. She actively involved all of the children in playing with a technological toy and extended their learning appropriately. She talks about daily life events as they occur and ensures that children understand the constant comings and goings of visitors and family members. The childminder encourages children to imitate new words, praising them for their efforts. Children make their wishes known and the childminder skilfully responds to their needs. For example, the childminder provides continued reassurance to children new to the setting.

Children are involved in a vast range of planned activities and spontaneous events, which actively support their development and overall learning. For example, the childminder allows the children to choose from the toys and books set out and makes timely suggestions, offering alternative jigsaws when interest begins to wane. The childminder takes the children out of the home to attend a wide variety of different groups where children can mix with other children to develop their social skills through sharing physical activity, music or crafts.

Children are very happy, settled and content to play in a relaxed family home where there is always something going on. The childminder is able to devote her time and attention to the children, ensuring that she is able to accommodate their individual needs and preferences. For example, the childminder ensures that she spends time with each child, developing their knowledge of colours, shapes and numbers and is further reinforced through colourful posters and pictures. The childminder is suitably familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework and uses this to guide her practice with younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about their community as they visit social groups, walk in the neighbourhood and visit local parks. The childminder confidently implements her written equal opportunities statement and continues to extend her wide selection of resources to support children's awareness of the wider world. The childminder takes great care to ensure that planned activities to support children's multi-cultural awareness are relevant and appropriate for the age and stage of development of the young children. The childminder has little experience of caring for children with identified learning difficulties or disabilities. Nevertheless, she has devised and obtained pictures, jigsaws and play people to support children's understanding of disability. She has a secure knowledge of child development and consequently, she feels able to approach parents if she is worried about children's progress and obtain appropriate support from outside agencies to address the concern. The childminder meets children's needs through the daily routine as discussed with their parents.

Children behave very well in response to the childminder's clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour and consistent expectations. She displays a poster outlining expected standards of

behaviour for parents and children. The childminder confidently uses facial expression and tone of voice to remind children about positive behaviour including good manners and courtesy. Practice is underpinned by clear written statements which emphasise the positive techniques in use. Parents and carers receive a copy of the childminder's written policies and these set out what parents can expect from her service. The childminder ensures that thorough daily dialogue is used effectively to keep parents extremely well informed about their child's activities. The childminder has a readily available complaints procedure and all required parental permissions are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is confident in her childcare practice, using her warm personality and her life experience as a mother to actively promote positive outcomes for children. The childminder is constantly updating her knowledge through contact with other childminders and training opportunities presented by the local authority. She operates with clear written policies and procedures. A suitable attendance register is in place and all members of the household are suitably vetted. She has begun to use a brief form of self-evaluation to monitor the quality of her service and is now actively seeking ways to continue to develop this. The childminder is able to enrich children's care, learning and play through her constant interaction and interest. All of the children receive individual attention at some time during the day and benefit from social interaction with children of varying ages and backgrounds. Children confidently choose activities and the childminder encourages them to extend their experiences. Children's welfare and education is effectively supported through the childminder's clear use of thoughtful routines which cover the National Standards. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to ensure that the garden is safe, that play materials reflect different cultures, agendas and abilities positively and to develop policies and procedures. The childminder has re-laid the slabs in the garden to improve safety. She has extended her resources to positively reflect all aspects of diversity. She has created well-thought out, written policies to underpin the safe and efficient management her childcare practice.

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 evaluative systems to enhance records, policies and procedures to raise the quality of provision for children across all outcomes.

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