

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY272629
Inspection date	26 February 2008
Inspector	Michael Kubiak
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2003. She lives with her three children aged seven, nine and 15 years of age. The family live in a house in Barking which is within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks, and bus routes. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children aged under five years at any one time. She is currently not childminding.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities.

No children on roll.

When a provider does not have children on roll at the time of the inspection, inspection judgements are based on evidence gathered from discussions with the provider and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation.

As there were no children on roll, the quality of the provision cannot be judged better than satisfactory because there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's good health is promoted. She has systems in place to gather information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. She describes how children would learn about their personal hygiene through their normal daily routines.

The childminder shared the types of food that she would provide the children with, however these are not healthy and nutritious and would not promote children's health and well-being. Children enjoy regular physical exercise both indoors and out. They attend a childminders' group, visit the local parks and have access to the garden. The childminder follows the children's daily routines, including times for rest and quiet play.

The childminder shares information with parents regarding the care of sick and injured children. These measures help to reduce the risks of infection to children. The childminder has a current first aid certificate. The childminder's procedure for obtaining written consent to administer medication is not rigorous and does not safeguard children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks in and outside her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. She explains how she helps children to learn about their own safety through discussion, for example, by practising the fire evacuation procedure. The children have access to the trampoline in the garden and the childminder ensures that the children are closely supervised to prevent accidents and to promote their health and safety.

Children have access to the dedicated playroom and the bathroom which are both located on the ground floor of the property. This area is spacious and the children have access to a computer in this room.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has an understanding of her role and responsibilities with regard to child protection. She has an understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and of the procedures to follow should she have any concerns contributing to the safety and welfare of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated how children have access to a range of appropriate resources for the children, however there are limited activities available for the younger children which limits their ability to develop to their full potential. Play resources are organised in a manner which helps to promote children's free choice. They are sufficient in quality and easily accessible on low level shelving. The childminder confirms that she also uses the local toy library to access additional resources for the children.

Regular trips to local groups and parks are undertaken.

The childminder demonstrated that she would encourage the children's independence and that they would be provided with a range of different experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated a positive attitude towards promoting different cultures and religions and has toys and resources to support this. She also has a positive attitude to diversity to encourage children to feel good about themselves and she would treat them with respect.

The childminder showed a satisfactory knowledge of behaviour management, giving examples of how she would approach a variety of situations for children of different ages. The children are expected to adhere to the house rules and the positive behaviour is encouraged by the use of stickers as a reward. She explained that she would set clear boundaries with the children and that children would be encouraged to learn what acceptable behaviour is.

The childminder demonstrated how she builds up positive relationships with parents. She discusses the children's needs with parents ensuring that their individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated that she would provide the children with a organised, homely environment, which would encourage them to settle and be confident. Children have access to a dedicated playroom with ample clear floor space. Access to the lounge and the first floor of the property is restricted.

The majority of the relevant documentation is maintained, however the record of attendance does not clearly state the times when the childminder drops the children off at school and when she collects them. The childminder has also not devised a clear complaints procedure and this remains a recommendation.

The childminder continues to develop her knowledge and skills by attending child care related courses.

Overall, evidence suggests that the childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop knowledge and reporting responsibilities in relation to informing Ofsted of notifiable diseases; devise and implement a complaints procedure; provide parents with details of activities provided; ensure toys and clean and in suitable condition; ensure public liability insurance in place, devise and practise an emergency escape plan and ensure the safety of gas appliances. The childminder has taken pro-active steps to meet all of these recommendations with the exception of issues in relation to the complaints procedure and this remains a recommendation from this inspection.

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.

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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 that there is a complaints procedure and that this is shared with parents
- encourage healthy eating
- ensure that a accurate record of attendance is maintained
- ensure that specific consent is obtained to administer medication
- develop a range of age appropriate resources and activities for younger children

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