

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	156180
Inspection date	27 February 2008
Inspector	Natasha Parsons
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder who has been registered since 1993, she lives with her two adult daughters in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. The minded children use the front room, kitchen and hall for their play and can watch television in the living room. There is a fully enclosed garden minded children use this if they want to, but various activities often come first and are preferred. The family have three dogs, and a rabbit.

The childminder provides before and after school care, walking to local schools to take and collect children. She currently has ten children on roll who attend for various sessions during the week.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop methods that promote their health for example, they wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and on their return from school and after touching animals. Children are learning about healthy living when they clean their teeth after eating, a poster informs children about the different types of fruit and vegetables, this is reinforced when they are provided with a variety of fruit for example, watermelon and strawberries. The childminder promotes children's health when she ensures her kitchen and utensils are clean, and ties her hair back before food preparation.

Children are protected as the childminder has an appropriate first aid qualification, and an acceptably stocked first aid box. A sound sick child policy protects children who are unwell or with infectious conditions they would be excluded for the required time scale and parents would be contacted if children became unwell during the day. Medication and accidents are appropriately recorded, and parents are kept informed, the required parental consent for the seeking of emergency medical treatment is in place.

Children use the childminder's garden in warm weather, and develop their physical skills and experiences when they use local parks, walk to and from school and ride bikes. However the garden is used according to children's preference when they prefer to stay inside in warmer weather to stay cool. Children's individual rest needs are met when they snuggle on the settee as they watch television and chat to their friends.

Snack time is relaxed when the children sit together at the kitchen table or in the front room. The childminder works hard when she prepares an individual meal for each child and takes into account if they will eat again at home and their food preferences. Children are encouraged to eat their main meal for example, pizza, chicken wrap and filled sandwiches with jam and sausages. They are encouraged to eat the fruit offered before having the available treats for example, crisps, cup cakes and biscuits. However the snacks offered include a high amount of unhealthy options and the childminder is committed to address this, children remain hydrated when they help themselves to drinks, and have a drink with their meal. Children are protected when the childminder collects information about their individual dietary and allergy needs at the beginning of each placement, and is aware of children who can not eat nuts or strawberries and provides home produced cakes to protect them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure, and safe home they use the downstairs of the premises and the garden. The childminder has several dogs whom are kept upstairs and have limited contact with children, they would be appropriately supervised when in contact with children. Measures in place ensure children remain safe for example, the use of safety gates, smoke alarms and children use items like scissors with supervision. Children are kept safe when the childminder adjusts safety measures to match children's ages and stages of development for example, older children are not allowed to open the front door except in an emergency. An emergency escape plan has been thought out and practised, however it is not written or recorded. The childminder would take appropriate action if children were not collected or become lost for example, if lost she would contact the police, local authorities and Ofsted.

Children are learning about keeping themselves safe when they are reminded not to run indoors, on the school run they remain in the direct care of the childminder who holds their hands and they use appropriate road crossings, children learn about the stranger danger through discussion. Play materials and activities are purchased from reputable manufactures, equipment is checked for safety and broken items are thrown away.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder is aware of her responsibility to protect children, sound confidential recording systems are in place, and the contact details of the local safeguarding team is available. The childminder would seek advice if concerned and has a secure knowledge of the main types of abuse and the possible signs that would concern her. Children are protected from un-vetted adults as meter readers with a password only come into the premises and children have to be collected by an adult known to the childminder.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder prepares well for the time children spend in her home, she provides a broad range of accessible activities for the age group she cares for. Children are happy and settled, they have formed strong relationships with her and her family and talk with enthusiasm about the time they spend with her for example, children stated 'they really enjoy their time with the childminder and can not say enough about her'. They are welcomed into her home and make themselves comfortable they enjoy the frequent changing of creative activities for example, sand art and as they use glue to decorate a bag. The session runs smoothly and the childminder ensures children eat before being collected. Children enjoy a varied range of activities for example, children can relax as they snuggle on the sofa eat popcorn and watch movies, draw, decorate biscuits to take home and make spinning tops or use the computer.

The childminder knows the children and their families well, and talks with children about their home life and praises their individual skills and talents. Children work together as they share the decorations for the biscuits, they chat and talk about the value of their friendships at the childminder's and their previous experience of day care. Children move freely, self select activities this develops their independence and decision making skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing an awareness of the local community and wider society through the childminder's effective attitude when she raises children's awareness of differences and reminds them that each person is an individual and is unique. She encourages children to treat others with consideration, and she would effectively challenge unacceptable or derogative comments made. Children benefit from the range of resources including dolls and books they learn about different cultural celebrations for example Eid and enjoy painting their hands with henna to make Bengali patterns. An inclusive setting ensures all children are valued and their individual needs are met, children experiencing difficulties are supported and activities would be adapted.

Children are aware of the childminder's rules which keep them and others safe for example, do not touch the oven or hob, and no going upstairs these are displayed and children confidently explain and refer to these. Children behave well because they are well supported, occupied and rules are appropriate and consistently applied. Older children take responsibility for their own behaviour when they place the removed treat in a cupboard and behave well to earn it back.

The childminder works effectively with parents to manage children's behaviour and this ensures consistency for children.

Good partnership with parents ensures they remain well informed about their child's time and progress at the childminder's through verbal and children's individual books. Parents are welcomed and are made comfortable, they are given daily feedback and the opportunity to share information and news. Parents are provided with complaint information should they need to complain about the service provided and annually reviewed contracts formalise the arrangements between them and the childminder. Children are settled effectively ensuring their experience is positive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is experienced and committed in her role she offers flexible care to several families and continuity of care and stability for children when she cares for them for extended periods of time, with children returning to see her once they have left her care. She cares for a large number of children some of whom are siblings, the majority of children are over the age of eight, this does not impact on the care of the under eights.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the childminding standards and regulations, she has in place all the required records and parental consents and is taking appropriate steps to develop a range of written policies and procedures, she could share with parents to reflect her practices. She works with her local childminding coordinator to develop her knowledge and is committed to complete further training. Records are appropriately retained and organised to ensure they remain confidential and safe.

Children make themselves at home and are enthusiastic and positive about the time they spend in the childminder's home, she is well organised for children's arrival from school when she provides an interesting and stimulating range of activities. She is enthusiastic about her role and is effective in ensuring the children's time with her is positive. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint, this information is now in place. And to keep a written record of children's individual specific needs the childminder keeps written information on each child and is aware of their dietary and allergy needs.

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 satisfactory. 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 the emergency escape plan is written and a record is made when it is practised
- ensure the meals and snack provided are healthy options.

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