

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	135832
Inspection date	22 February 2008
Inspector	Roulla Xyrizos
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 has been registered since 1996. She is registered to provide care for three children under eight years. She lives in a terraced house in Edmonton, in the London Borough of Enfield. She lives with her husband and five children aged twenty two, nineteen, seventeen, fourteen and six.

The family does not have any pets. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding purposes, which comprise of hallway, large open plan kitchen/living room and a fully enclosed garden which is available for outside play. The first floor of the home is not available to minded children, apart from the bathroom.

The childminder currently cares for three children under eight who attend on different times and days of the week. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and is an accredited childminder.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about keeping themselves healthy because the childminder promotes good hygiene practices. For example, children wash their hands before and after meals, and have their own individual flannels. Children understand that they should cover their mouths when coughing in order to prevent the spread of infection. Children wash their hands after going to the toilet and understand that hands should be kept clean in order to stop germs from spreading.

Accident, health and medication records generally promote continuity of care. However, written consent from parents for emergency medical treatment has not been obtained and the childminder's first aid certificate has expired. This poses a potential risk of appropriate follow up care for children and there is a risk of delay of appropriate and rapid action in the event of an emergency.

Children have lots of opportunities for energetic and vigorous play, and are developing a healthy attitude towards exercise. For example, children enjoy trips to the local park and indoor adventure playground where they enjoy using various apparatus. Children also enjoy walking to the shops and playing with a variety of physical equipment in the enclosed rear garden.

Children are well nourished because the childminder provides healthy and nutritious meals including chicken wraps, bolognaise, and a variety of culturally diverse meals which reflect the children's own cultures. Drinks are freely available and children enjoy drinking water and diluted juices throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has created a child orientated, inviting, warm and welcoming environment and children have sufficient space to explore and play safely. Children have access to a wide variety of play resources which are situated in the spacious open plan kitchen/living room. Toys are stored within children's easy reach enabling children free choice of play materials.

Children are kept safe because the childminder has implemented a good range of safety measures and takes positive steps to promote safety. For example, there are three smoke alarms situated throughout the home, and the childminder has fire blanket situated in the kitchen and safety catches are fitted to drawers and cupboards in the kitchen. Children are developing a good awareness of safety because of the childminder's practice. For example, the children regularly practice fire drills, and they know that they must always stay within the childminder's sight when taken out on outings. Children know that they must not run or jump on furniture when inside the house and understand that this is because they could be hurt by doing so.

Children are able to freely access safe toys and equipment which are clean and suitable for use and in good condition. Children enjoy playing with a variety of toys and resources which include creative activities such as painting and drawing, dressing up clothes, construction equipment and a wide variety of games, books and puzzles.

Children are protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice. She has a good understanding of the four types of abuse and signs that children may show if abuse was occurring. The childminder has

clearly recorded details of all contact numbers required, but has not received details of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures from her local authority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the childminder's home because she has an excellent understanding of their individual requirements and likes and dislikes. The childminder supports children's play and learning by offering an excellent range of activities and play experiences which ensure children are highly stimulated, keen to participate and enthusiastic.

The childminder supports children very well and children in turn talk and play confidently. Children enjoy playing with paint brushes and 'water painting' the garden fence in the rear garden. They talk about their holidays, their favourite foods and enjoy counting games because the childminder extends their learning by encouraging the children to discuss day to day events.

Children work well together. For example, children learn how to operate computer equipment and enjoy an excellent range of well planned activities which reflect their individual interests. For example, children are taken to China Town, the Aquarium, and enjoy cooking activities such as making rice crispy cakes with the childminder. The childminder encourages self help and independence skills and the children take pride in being able to put their own shoes on and knowing which are the right and left shoes. Children are independent and confident as they move around the various activities, choosing what they want to play. They sit at the dining table and draw using templates and the childminder encourages them to recognise and write their own names on their drawings.

Children are extremely happy, settled and confident and there is a very warm and affectionate relationship between the children and the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel welcome and valued because the childminder values each child as an individual and works closely with parents to identify their particular needs. Children learn about diversity as they have access to appropriate play resources which show positive images of people in our society. Resources include cultural dolls and toy food, books, dressing up clothes, small world toys such as wheelchairs and puzzles depicting children from different cultures and abilities. The childminder has some experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and welcomes working together with parents and outside agencies in order to provide the best possible care for children.

Children are helped to understand right from wrong due to the effective behaviour management strategies of the childminder. Children know and understand the rules of the home and the childminder encourages children to take turns and share with each other. Strategies used by the childminder include praise and encouragement which the children benefit from and adopt.

Children benefit from the effective partnership that the childminder has with parents and the childminder discusses her policies and procedures with parents before childminding commences. She provides parents with daily verbal feedback regarding their children's day and progress and there is a clear complaints procedure which has not yet been needed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are kept safe due to all adults in the home being vetted. The childminder makes good use of space and other resources so that children are well cared for and supported during time spent with the childminder. The childminder maintains her ratios at all times and space is organised so that children are able to easily access a good range of resources.

Most documentation is in place and the childminder has discussed all her policies and procedures with parents before childminding commences. However, children's wellbeing may be compromised because written parental consent for emergency medical treatment has not been obtained and the childminder has not renewed her first aid certificate. In addition to this, the local authority have not forwarded the childminder a copy of Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations were raised at the last inspection. These were: to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, and to keep records in a confidential manner.

The childminder has completed a child protection training course and stores all her confidential documents in a locked filing box. This has had an overall positive impact on the service offered to parents and the welfare of children.

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):

- obtain Local Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures from the Local Authority
- obtain written parental consent for children to receive emergency medical treatment or advice; and complete a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants

and young children, and which is consistent with any guidance issued to local authorities by the Secretary of State

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