

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	402897
Inspection date	10 March 2008
Inspector	Catherine Greene

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 2001. She lives with her husband and their three children aged nine, four and two years. They live in a five-bedroom house in Hornsey, which is close to Wightman Road and Green Lanes and within a short walking distance to local parks, shops and schools. Areas of the property used for childminding are the living room, play room and bathroom facilities on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time, and currently has two children on roll.

The childminder uses local parks and the library when minding and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are nurtured and cared for in a clean and well maintained home. The childminder has a thorough understanding of how to promote children's health and well-being. Her good practice with babies ensures their daily needs are well managed with sensitivity and care. The childminder has a clear policy regarding the care of sick children. Parents work closely in partnership and always keep their children at home when they are sick. If a child falls sick in her care, she is sensitive and caring.

Children eat healthy and nutritious food. The childminder has a good understanding of the benefits of healthy eating and promotes this well, together with the parents. She consults closely with parents about children's diets, provides healthy snacks of fresh fruit and promotes drinking water. Children's special dietary and health needs are catered for in a sensitive way, to ensure they remain healthy. Children enjoy a broad range of physical play at local parks and playgroups.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Safety is well promoted inside the childminder's well maintained and secure home. Children are able to move around comfortably and freely, as space is organised with their needs in mind.

The childminder is aware of good practical safety precautions and is pro-active in protecting children from harm. This includes talking to children and parents about safety and firm arrangements for the safe arrival and collection of children. She is sensitive to the individual needs of families using her service and will make every effort to accommodate them.

The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and has booked onto refresher training. She is confident and has a good understanding of how to work appropriately with issues of child protection.

There is a good range of well maintained toys and equipment, which are safe for children of all ages to enjoy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are content and happily settled, the childminder's good nurturing skills help children feel secure and valued. They have access to a good range of play materials and activities which encourage their interest and development. The childminder takes into account that children may be tired, after their morning at drop ins and parks and ensures they are comfortable and have good rest, routines are flexible taking this into account.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how children learn through play. Activities are well-planned and organised in advance. Children are provided with a range of experiences, including creative and physical play. Toddlers are stimulated by the range of colourful and musical toys. The childminder is very attentive, supervising children closely.

Activities are well balanced and include opportunities for children to socialise with others at local play groups. Children also enjoy a good range of outdoor play opportunities at local parks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have their individual needs met by the childminder. They feel a strong sense of belonging as part of the family. They are inspired to find out about the environment and other cultures, during outings and as they join in on different celebrations in the community. Children benefit from the good range of resources and books that reflect diversity.

Each child is valued and respected as an individual and the childminder knows the children's personalities well. Children gain a real sense of belonging, socialising and enjoying play and story telling in the park with other registered childminders and their children. Children develop close relationships with each other and behaviour is very positive, the childminder gives children lots of affection and praise to encourage positive behaviour.

Good systems are in place to gain from, and share information with parents. Through daily discussions, and the childminder obtaining information, from parents, about children's routines, likes and dislikes. Photographs and examples of children's creative work are used by the childminder, to share with parents what the children have been doing or have enjoyed, while in her care. The childminder is developing her complaints procedure but has not yet provided parents with information about how to proceed should they wish to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder provides a welcoming environment where children feel secure and settled. Children's health and safety are promoted, and a good range of play materials and activities are provided that interest children and promote their development. The necessary written records and documentation are in place, information is clear and well organised. Written policies and procedures are in place and signed by parents to confirm their understanding and agreement.

The childminder uses the premises well to maximise play opportunities for children. Parent's views are valued and there are systems in place to share information contributing to children's sense of confidence and well-being.

The daily routines are based on the childminder's knowledge and understanding of the children's individual needs. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards for childminding and is committed to extending her knowledge through further training. This has a positive impact on children's well-being and development.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder develop her knowledge of child protection procedures and provide a range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice. The childminder has since attended child protection training, with the most recent session in 2008 and has developed her range of resources that promote positive images.

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):

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint.

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