

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	102086
Inspection date	28 March 2008
Inspector	Charlotte Jenkin

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 has been registered since January 1992.

She lives with her adult daughter. They live in a first floor maisonette, on a housing estate in Kentish Town, in the London borough of Camden.

The ground floor, as well as a bedroom and the bathroom on the first floor of childminder's home, is used for childminding. There are enclosed, under eights' play areas available on the estate for outside play.

The childminder is registered for three children under eight years. She currently has four children on roll who attend at various times.

The childminder is a member of the supported childminding scheme run by Camden Social services.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and rest in warm, clean premises, where good standards of hygiene are maintained. Children benefit from the childminder's up to date first aid certificate and her awareness of the administrative procedures to follow for recording accidents and medication administered to children in her care. However, she has not ensured parents consistently acknowledge accidents occurring to their children and this has the potential to put their health at risk. The childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of the importance of maintaining a hygienic environment for the children in order to minimise the spread of infection. She shares her sickness policy with parents verbally and this minimises children's exposure to unnecessary illness.

Children are encouraged to develop their awareness of healthy eating through the nutritious snacks and meals they enjoy whilst in the provision. The childminder prepares freshly cooked lunches for them, and includes foods from around the world in her menus. The childminder gains information from parents regarding children's dietary needs and allergies and any requirements are catered for. Some children bring their own lunches to the setting and the childminder ensures parents' wishes are respected with regard to weaning. The childminder offers parents information regarding suitable snacks and lunch box items, to encourage healthy eating with all the children in her care. Children have access to drinks throughout the day and their dietary needs are successfully met.

Children have regular access to fresh air and exercise. They visit Toddler group daily where they are able to play with a variety of physical equipment including climbing frames and ride on toys. Indoors the childminder provides some physical equipment to promote the children's skills. Children also visit the park to play on the large equipment, go for walks and also visit local soft play centres. Children have their physical skills well supported.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in child-friendly premises where toys are set out for their arrival and they are welcomed into the provision. Space has been organised to meet the children's needs in order that they have areas for resting, eating and plenty of floor space for play. Children have access to a wide range of toys and equipment that promote their development in all areas. The childminder also borrows toys from the toy library to ensure children have greater variety to play with. These are rotated and children have access to a suitable range during the day. They are able to choose those they wish to play with and make choices in their play and learning. Hence, their confidence and independence is promoted.

Children play in safe premises, free from risks as the childminder has implemented a range of safety measures in the home, to promote safety and prevent accidents. For example, sockets are covered, safety gates prevent access to the kitchen and stairs, all potentially hazardous materials are out of reach and the premises are all secure. Hence, children play in safety. The childminder has clear procedures in place for promoting children's safety on outings. All fire precautions are in place and the evacuation plan is practised with the minded children to monitor its effectiveness in keeping children safe in the event of a fire.

The childminder has a sound working knowledge of child protection issues and the procedures to follow in the event of concerns. However, she does not record injuries that children arrive to the setting with and this has the potential to compromise their welfare. Children's well-being is promoted as the childminder shares her child protection duties with parents formally.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and at ease in the childminder's care. They demonstrate a good rapport with the childminder, readily approaching her for comfort, which she responds well to. Thus, helping the children feel secure in her care. The childminder interacts well with the children in her care, promoting their language and communication through singing and talking to them. She knows the children well and their abilities, helping them develop further through play. Children, therefore, confidently make noises and use their bodies to express themselves and their feelings. Children are able to make choices with regard to the toys they wish to play with, for example, musical instruments, electronic toys and stacking cups and rings. This enables them to become confident in exploring new experiences. Children make connections with the world around them, knowing if they push the buttons on the toy, it will play a song. Children communicate their joy through smiling and clapping and the childminder encourages this, helping develop their self-confidence.

Children benefit from the childminder's developing knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework and ensures the activities provided are suitable for their individual developmental needs. Children are able to engage in art and craft activities, physical play, exploration and role play. Hence, they have their development supported well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who knows the children in her care well, values and respects them and supports their individual needs well. She fully promotes their self-esteem through recognising their individual needs and ensuring she supports and promotes these fully. Children have opportunities to become a part of the local community through attending local Toddler groups, where they socialise with other children. Children have access to a wide range of toys that promote positive images of diversity, including books, puzzles and play figures. The childminder uses sign language and visual aids to support children's communication skills whilst in her care. For example, hand washing routines are displayed in the bathroom.

The childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of the methods to use for managing children's behaviour, including the use of praise and encouragement. She has clear boundaries with the minded children, and these are implemented consistently in the home. Hence, children are helped and encouraged to learn right from wrong and to share and take turns in their play.

Children benefit from the sound partnership with parents as they have their routines respected and are cared for in line with parents' wishes. The childminder offers parents support where needed with any developmental needs of their children, for example, support with potty training. The childminder feeds back to parents daily regarding their child's day, including their achievements and routines. She offers parents written information regarding her policies and the procedures she is required to follow. Children take their craft items they have made home with them, and this enables them to share their day with their family.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a suitable and experienced childminder. She attends regular training to support her professional development, and this has enabled her to reflect on her practice and offer the children new care and learning opportunities. She also receives regular support from the supported childminding service. The childminder maintains the required adult to child ratios at all times and this means children receive good adult support, as the childminder is able to meet their individual needs and spend time playing and interacting with them. However, she does not ensure her register of children's attendance is kept up to date at all times and this puts the children's safety at risk.

Most required documentation is stored and readily available for inspection. However, some paperwork lacks detail to ensure children's welfare is securely protected. For example, accident records are not consistently signed by parents, register is not kept up to date at all times, consents for routines are not gained from parents for all children in her care and children's existing injuries are not routinely recorded.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children, ensure that daily record of children's attendance is kept and to obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children. She also agreed to ensure that the first aid box and its contents comply with Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations, keep written records about accidents and ensure that incident book recording significant incidents is kept. The childminder finally agreed to ensure all persons living in the home, aged over 16 years, under go a criminal records check, keep a record of all medicines administered to children and complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

The childminder gained an appropriate first aid course after the last inspection and has recently updated this again. This means she is able to deal with accidents occurring to the children in her care. A daily record of children's attendance is kept, although this is not kept completely up to date. The childminder has not had to administer medication to children, but she has in place a form which enables her to obtain written permission and to record dosages when given. The childminder now keeps written records of accidents and incidents, although these are not consistently signed by parents. All adults in the home have undergone checks to ensure they are suitable to be in contact with children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection no complaints have been 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 all accidents to children that are recorded are shared with and signed by parents
- ensure a record of children's existing injuries are recorded and shared with parents
- ensure the register detailing children's arrival and departure times is kept up to date at all times
- make sure written consents are gained from all parents regarding their child participating in activities and routines

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