

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	153581
Inspection date	03 April 2008
Inspector	Bharti Vakil
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 was registered in 1988. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one grandchild in Walthamstow, in the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children. The childminder works jointly with her daughter who is a registered childminder and together they may care for a maximum of eight children at any one time. Currently they are caring for five children between them; all attend part-time, mainly during the school term. During the inspection one child under two years was present. The childminder and the co-childminder walk to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder holds recognised early years childcare qualification to NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) level three years and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health and welfare are promoted well as there are good levels of hygiene throughout the areas used by children. There are regular cleaning routines to ensure the toys and equipment used by children are kept clean. Children are learning good hygiene practices through routine; for example, washing hands at appropriate times and washing the table before eating. They are developing self-care skills as they independently use their own colour-coded cutlery, flannels and towels on pegs. Children have fun as they make their own name cards for the pegs.

Overall, clear procedures are in place to maintain accident and medication records along with the appropriate levels of parental consent. However, written permission for emergency medical treatment has not been sought from all parents. There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place to support children's welfare needs. For example, children do not attend if they are unwell with infectious illnesses, and the childminder is clear which notifiable illnesses must be reported. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate. This ensures children receive appropriate care if there is an accident or if medication has to be administered.

Children's individual dietary requirements are well met as the childminder obtains detailed information from the parents regarding allergies and preferences. Children enjoy a well balanced diet. Snacks and meals include a choice of fresh fruit and vegetables, which promotes healthy eating. The colourful posters outlining benefits of eating five portions of fruits and vegetables a day are well used as a discussion point. Drinks are easily available throughout the day. Young children access their own cups of fresh water placed at low level. The childminder has attended appropriate training in food safety. Food and drinks provided by parents are stored and heated appropriately.

Children have daily opportunities to enjoy lots of fresh air and exercise which contribute to their good health. They are developing competent physical skills and abilities. For instance, the children have regular opportunities to play outside in the back garden with a selection of resources such as a trampoline, bean bags, balls, a parachute, and push- and pull-along toys. They enjoy regular outings to local child friendly settings, such as the library, toddler groups and parks, where a wider range of activities and apparatus are available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very child-friendly environment. The attractive displays of posters and children's artwork make the surroundings welcoming for the children. The good organisation of space allows children to play, eat and rest in comfort. The childminder takes extremely good safety precautions, thus minimising the risk of accidents. All areas of the home are assessed in much detail. For example, the emergency evacuation procedure is displayed and children are involved in regular fire drills and fire safety discussions. Children learn about their own safety and that of others through following the excellent practice of the childminder. For example, older children set the table and carry chairs carefully to ensure they do not hurt others.

Children enjoy an excellent range of quality toys and play resources that are unreservedly safe and extremely well chosen for children of all ages. The childminder is proactive in enabling

children to make decisions about what they want to play with. A lovely scrapbook, 'Our Book of Things We can Do', shows photos and pictures of various activities and resources available at the setting; this is well used by children to make choices in their play. Children's individual care needs are met effectively as the excellent range of equipment includes a bouncer chair, buggies, car seats, safety gates, travel cots and a potty.

Children's well-being is safeguarded by the childminder's very good understanding of child protection issues, her keen awareness of the signs of possible abuse and her knowledge of the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. The childminder regularly updates her knowledge by attending child protection training courses.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a nurturing and fun relationship with the childminder, from whom they receive great support and encouragement. Children flourish in the childminder's care as she offers purposeful and challenging activities. They achieve extremely well because the childminder is highly skilled and has successfully implemented early years guidance such as the Birth to three matters framework to provide high quality care and education.

They receive lots of cuddles and good eye contact from the childminder which they relish. There are many exciting opportunities for children to explore their senses through well planned activities. For example, young children concentrate well whilst shining torches through sheer material in a den with sea animals. They are extremely fascinated by different patterns and images captured by the use of the torches and are motivated to try out the activity themselves. They thoroughly enjoy moving their bodies to music as they watch an 'Animusic' DVD for a brief period of time, beaming and clapping their hands as the childminder joins-in the fun. Children are exploring and investigating play resources with excitement. For example, they are absolutely thrilled as they work out the sequence of graded toys and receive lots of praise from the childminder. Children benefit from the childminder's constant enthusiasm when talking, reading and playing with them.

The childminder knows the children really well and provides interesting opportunities and experiences appropriate to their individual stage of development. For example, they make booklets titled 'About Me' and 'Road Safety'. Paper, crayons and pencils are available to enable them to practise their early writing skills. Early reading skills are promoted well as children recognise their name on their coat and towel pegs. They have access to an interesting range of books suitable for various age groups. They have good opportunities to develop problem solving skills as they fit puzzles, build with bricks, sort objects and post shapes. Children are offered an extensive range of interesting play experiences and activities on a regular basis which enables them to gain knowledge and understanding of their environment, learn new skills, and consolidate existing ones.

Children have enormous fun and they play enthusiastically with a comprehensive range of toys and resources, which promotes their learning. Children benefit from the childminder's excellent knowledge of child development and experience of working with young children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very well settled and confident in their environment. The childminder knows the children extremely well, and values and respects their individuality. This means that she is able to provide for them and ensure their needs are constantly met. The childminder is warm and attentive towards children, who clearly enjoy the time they spend with her. They confidently approach the childminder for support and are able to express their needs without any hesitation. The children have extensive opportunities to learn to value themselves and others through sharing books that include positive images and examples of how people live. Their awareness of diversity is increasing through discussions about various celebrations and access to a range of meaningful resources such as puzzles, posters, dolls and play people.

Firm and consistent boundaries help children to know what is expected of them at the setting. Children help draw up rules through discussion and are clear of the reasons for such rules. For example, children are very aware about the 'Front Door Rules': they wait for an adult to answer the front door bell, and know to hold hands or stay close to the childminder when they step out of the front door. The childminder supports children in sharing and taking turns through various strategies. This includes discussion about how they are feeling through the 'Facial Feelings' game which encourages children to become aware of their own feelings and that of others around them.

Children's needs are met very well through the sharing of excellent written information about children's individual needs as well as through the daily verbal exchange of information with parents. This fosters children's sense of security and belonging. The very well organised and maintained folders for parents inform them about the setting's policies and procedures and the childminder's experience and qualifications. Moreover the notice board and the newly introduced newsletters keep parents informed of different aspects of the setting to benefit the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder works closely and effectively with her co-childminder to meet children's welfare, care and developmental needs. Both childminders jointly share the responsibility for their childminding practice. The provision is set out to offer a very stimulating learning environment for young children to make excellent progress in their development.

Children's well-being is promoted by the setting's effective use of policies and procedures. However, written permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment has not been obtained for all the children. Children are full of confidence and self-esteem and they are very happy in the setting. They are familiar with the routines that are in place to help them settle and feel secure.

The childminder is committed to her own professional development, attending relevant training courses and keeping up-to-date with current ideas and legislation. She is fully committed to ensuring that all children receive the highest quality of care and education by actively reviewing and monitoring the setting's practice. This is valuable to all children who attend the provision as the practice is continually enhanced.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Although systems are in place to maintain the required records, written consent to seek emergency medical treatment has not been sought from all parents and remains an area needing improvement.

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 written parental permission to seek any necessary emergency advice or treatment for all 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