

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317122
Inspection date	18 July 2008
Inspector	Fiona Sapler
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and four children, aged from 12 to 19, in Forest Gate in the London borough of Newham. The whole 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five all day, part time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children are at risk because the administration of medication is not recorded accurately. Times of administration and dosages are not noted sufficiently and parents do not always provide written consent prior to medicine being given by the childminder. These are breaches of regulations. No records were available at the time of inspection relating to accidents, however, the childminder states that there have been no accidents to record and would call an ambulance

in the event of a serious injury or illness. She has permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment and holds a current first aid certificate, ensuring she has a sound understanding of how to respond appropriately if a child is injured or unwell. Suitable hygiene routines are followed, for example, when changing nappies, to help children stay healthy.

Parents generally provide food for the youngest children ensuring their individual dietary needs are well met. However, the childminder does not demonstrate a complete understanding of healthy eating for young children as she describes how snacks are mostly crisps and the meals she provides consist of mainly processed or convenience food. This approach does not help children to understand what foods are good for them and how they can contribute to their own good health.

The childminder helps young children to develop their physical skills by encouraging them to crawl and begin to walk, through the provision of interesting toys placed just out of the child's reach and helping to support them to stand and toddle. However, she rarely takes children out of the home during the day to benefit from fresh air and exercise. If she does visit the park, younger children are not encouraged to use the age appropriate equipment or learn different ways their bodies can move as the childminder is unsure of suitable activities that younger children will enjoy when in the park or playground.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are not fully safeguarded as the childminder does not record existing injuries and has a limited understanding of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse or neglect. She is not able to sufficiently demonstrate a sound knowledge of the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child in her care.

The childminder is currently minding from the home of another registered childminder while building work is taking place in her own home. She has made the available space welcoming for the minded children by attractively presenting the toys on a large mat. She has considered the children's ages when deciding which toys to bring to the setting and rotates these for interest. Toys and resources remain safe and suitable because the childminder checks to make sure they are not broken and small items do not present a choking hazard. Equipment, such as a high chair, booster seat, travel cot and pushchair, ensures children can sleep, eat and go out in safety and comfort. The childminder risk assesses the home to provide a safe environment for minded children and ensures that an appropriate level of supervision is provided to promote the children's safety at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children's learning and development opportunities are limited because the childminder does not provide interesting and stimulating activities that allow them to explore and experiment. Children spend their time in one room and do not use the garden or routinely go out on trips or outings. Therefore, they are not benefiting from knowledge of the local community, learning about the wider world or opportunities to interact with their peers while in the childminder's care. Resources, such as soft books, spinning tops and a push along toy, are of good quality and stimulating but are not greatly varied in form or colour thus not providing children with access to natural or malleable objects or play equipment that allows them to use their imagination, express their creativity or learn about the qualities of different materials. However,

the childminder has a sensitive approach to minded children. She sits on the floor and plays and talks with them warmly, providing cuddles and responding to the children's needs appropriately, helping them to feel secure and confident in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have opportunities to learn about and understand other cultures because the childminder has a range of resources that reflect other cultures, helping children to develop a positive attitude towards diversity. These include small play figures, dolls, books and puzzles. The childminder liaises with parents to gather sufficient information about the children's backgrounds to enable her to meet their individual needs. She understands there is a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities and is aware of her responsibility to meet children's additional needs and to provide the appropriate level of care required.

Children are beginning to understand right from wrong as the childminder uses appropriate strategies according to the age and understanding of minded children.

A comprehensive contract contains information for parents relating to issues such as behaviour management, accidents and collection arrangements to ensure parents are well informed of the setting and the childminder's policies. She has provided parents with Ofsted's contact details and has advised them of how they can complain if necessary. A range of consents ensures parents' wishes are known and daily verbal feedback provides opportunities for information sharing to promote continuity.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The children's welfare is not sufficiently protected as the childminder has failed to meet all the requirements within the National Standards. She also demonstrates a limited understanding of suitable activities that promote the children's development in all areas and an inadequate knowledge of how to safeguard children. Therefore, the childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children's welfare is supported because all adults living in the home, and the home of the co-minder, have undergone checks to underpin their suitability to have contact with minded children. In addition most documentation is maintained appropriately.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable, this is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children, both inside and outdoors, to encourage their creativity, allow them to express their imaginations and to promote all areas of development
- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication and ensure accurate records are maintained of all medicines given to children
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, the signs and symptoms of possible abuse or neglect and the procedures to follow if there are child protection concerns.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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