

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160051
Inspection date	23 April 2008
Inspector	Julia Louise Crowley

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 was registered in 2000. She lives with her husband in the Edmonton area of the London Borough of Enfield. The whole of the ground floor of the premises, the first floor bathroom and one bedroom are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight at any one time and is currently minding four children on a full and part time basis. The childminder keeps ornamental fish in the garden pond. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean environment where they can use a wide range of good quality toys. The childminder follows current and up to date environmental health and hygiene guidelines. For example, the house is cleaned prior to the arrival of the children and individual towels and flannels are available. The childminder has adequate policies and procedures in

place so children are protected in the event of an accident or illness. For example, medication and accident records and consent for emergency treatment are in place. However the childminder is not fully aware of her responsibility to notify Ofsted should two or more children have food poisoning.

Children sufficiently understand simple good health and hygiene practices such as washing their hands before they eat and after toileting. They use tissues appropriately and know that this prevents the spread of germs. Children benefit from adequately healthy diet. They enjoy nutritious meals and snacks. For example, snacks consist of fresh fruits and vegetables occasionally biscuits and crisps. Grilled chicken, rice and jacket potatoes can be found on the written weekly menus.

Children enjoy sufficient physical activity where they have opportunities to develop their physical skills. For example, they enjoy large mobile toys in the garden and make good use of local parks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and adequately organised environment because the childminder risk assesses prior to the children arriving in the morning. Areas within the main play area are allocated to specific tasks such as reading area and role play therefore children move confidently and safely within the space. They access toys easily and safely from shelves, boxes and low level tables. Children use an adequate range of suitable and safe equipment because the childminder regularly sorts and cleans the toys. Children choose their favourite toy identifying where they are kept and confident that all the pieces are in place.

Children effectively learn to keep themselves safe by listening to simple instruction from the childminder and discussion. For example, children discuss the green cross code before leaving the house to play in the park. Children are protected because childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice.

The childminder has devised systems that promote the children's safety, such as sound collection procedures and an emergency evacuation drill. However, she does not record or complete a risk assessment when the evacuation procedure has been completed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are sufficiently settled in the childminder's home. She is responsive to their needs and requests, helping to promote their confidence and sense of security. The childminder supports the children to explore and experiment by providing easily accessible play equipment and activities.

Children develop confidence and self esteem because the childminder offers plenty of praise and encouragement. For example, children enthusiastically make cakes and buns out of play dough and proudly show their creations to the childminder. She is quick to respond and the children are delighted. Children are interested in what they do as they select their favourite books from a wide and interesting range. They sit on the soft chair and turn the pages from right to left. The characters are familiar to them and they confidently tell the story in their own words.

The children are encouraged to develop their vocabulary and the use of language. The childminder talks to them and explains things clearly, helping them begin to understand the meaning of words. The children enjoy listening to stories and sharing books with their friends and the childminder. They are beginning to join in action songs contributing to their growing sense of coordination and ability to recognise and enjoy familiar songs and rhymes.

Children enjoy regular outings including visiting a local childminder group during the week. This provides them with opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities including role play, arts and crafts, sand play and story telling. They benefit from being able to socialise with a regular group of children. Children benefit from a warm trusting relationship with the childminder who knows them well. She ensures all children present are able to enjoy the play activities on offer.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder helps children to settle by asking parents for appropriate information concerning their child's routine and individual needs. This means that she has a sufficient knowledge of the each child's individual needs and contributes effectively to children's well being while in her care. For example, parents meet with the childminder prior to the arrangement beginning. Information is discussed and recorded.

The children are treated as individuals because the childminder acknowledges their differing personalities and identifies and addresses, where possible, their individual care and developmental needs. Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement and are supported to learn important social skills, such as taking turns and sharing, particularly evident when they patiently wait their turn to use the glue during the activity. For example, children play and share the buggy and dolls. The childminder praises them on playing nicely together.

Children generally behave well and are learning to play co-operatively and to take turns. They respond mostly to the childminder's calm manner when reminding them of the behaviour boundaries within the home.

Daily discussions help to make sure that parents are kept informed of routines such as how long children have slept, what they have eaten as well as their general disposition. Parents receive copies of the policies and procedures to ensure all relevant information is shared with them. A range of consent forms covering a variety of events, such as using sun cream, taking photographs and going on public transport ensure that parents' wishes are met. These systems contribute to building an effective partnership with parents and promote consistency of care. However although a complaints procedure is available to parents the content is not up to date and there is not an effective system for recording complaints available consequently parents are not fully informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are sufficiently secure and catered for in the childminders care. They feel at home and at ease in the adequately organised family environment. They know the childminder well and are relaxed and happy. They receive satisfactory support from the childminder to support their learning and enjoyment. The room is organised to ensure that the children can play safely and effectively to develop their social skills.

Children are safeguarded as all other adults in the home have undergone checks to assess their suitability and there is an accurate record of children's attendances. However the childminder has not made full use of current training available from the local authority which will further improve the quality of care she offers.

The childminder has all required documentation in place and has compiled an informative portfolio of written policies and procedures that guide her daily practices. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that she obtained written permission from parents to administer medication to children and before transporting children in a vehicle. Both of these pieces of documentation are in now in place consequently parents are well informed and children welfare is safeguarded. In addition the childminder was asked to record clear information about children's special dietary requirements and ensure they are adhered. Currently she is not catering for specific dietary needs however she is aware of her responsibility to record and cater thoroughly for the individual dietary needs of every child. Lastly the childminder was asked to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. The childminder has approached a local college for a place on a local authority course she has successfully secured a place for the summer term.

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

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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 that the emergency evacuation procedure is recorded and risk assessed
- increase awareness of the responsibility to inform Ofsted of infectious disease, serious injury and food poisoning
- provide a complaints procedure and system for recording complaints that is in line with current legislation

- ensure that knowledge and understanding of childcare and legislation is kept current by attending relevant childcare local authority courses

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