

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY356480
Inspection date	31 July 2008
Inspector	Jane Davenport

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 2007. She lives with her 17 year old daughter in a house which is situated in the Chingford Mount area of the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole of the ground floor of the premises and the first floor bathroom/toilet are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years, and is currently minding four children on a part time basis. She collects children from local schools and attends local childcare groups. The childminder has four pet cats. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and tidy environment and, from an early age, they learn the importance of good personal hygiene through effective daily routines. Hand washing and nappy changing routines are effective in helping prevent the spread of infection. The childminder ensures her

home is clean and hygienic, with effective arrangements in place with regard to her pets; for example, children cannot access the cats' feeding bowls or utensils and the garden area is checked rigorously before children are allowed out, thus minimising any potential health hazards.

Posters with simple pictures and health messages such as 'wash your hands before eating', 'eat lots of fruit', 'drink lots of water', 'exercise', 'brush your teeth twice a day' and 'walk to school' are prominently displayed. This effectively reinforces healthy messages and encourages the children to participate in activities that will promote their well-being.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a good knowledge of first aid procedures; this means that she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. She records accidents that occur whilst the children are in her care and also existing injuries that children may have when they arrive. Parents give detailed information regarding their child's health requirements and these are extremely well met by the childminder. Parents provide prior written consent to administer medication, however, on one occasion the childminder did not record the administration of medicine to a child.

The childminder gathers all relevant information regarding diet, which ensures children's individual dietary requirements are met. Menus are varied, well balanced and nutritious and healthy options, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, rice cakes, malt loaf and home made casseroles are included. Babies' food is prepared according to their individual needs and they are learning to feed themselves, which helps encourage their independence. The childminder works closely with parents throughout their child's weaning to ensure continuity and provide ongoing support. Older children are beginning to develop their own preferences and make choices for themselves. The childminder uses puzzles and books which relate to healthy eating; she has made laminated place mats and a 'healthy eating' folder. Children use these to point out what they like and whether it is healthy or not. They also discuss how eating five portions a day of fruit and vegetables helps to make you fit and strong.

Babies and toddlers receive lots of warmth and affection. This supports their emotional wellbeing and gives them the confidence to explore new experiences. They have plenty of opportunities on walks and outings for healthy exercise in the fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where risks are identified and minimised. The environment is child friendly and all parents and children are encouraged to feel at home. This is enhanced by having a large 'Welcome' poster in different community languages on display in the front porch. Regular written risk assessments are carried out at the childminder's home and the premises are organised to ensure that safety measures are effective. For example, a fire blanket is in place in the kitchen, smoke alarms are maintained in working order and there is a secure outdoor play area. Children benefit from playing in a spacious well-organised environment, which allows them to move around safely and independently. There are effective systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children as they are only released into the care of a known adult, and the childminder is vigilant in requesting that visitors identify themselves and sign the visitors' book.

Children have easy and safe access to toys and resources that are stimulating and suitable for their stages of development, including natural materials. Equipment and resources are clean and in good condition and there are effective procedures in place to ensure that they pose no

risk to children. The childminder has started to prepare a full inventory of her toys so that children can request to play with items that have not already been set out, and to enable her to identify resources that need to be replaced or expanded. The emergency evacuation procedure is practised regularly with the children and given extra meaning by being practised at different times of the day and with different sources of the fire. This helps children to become familiar and confident with the routine should a real emergency arise.

Effective child protection procedures promote and safeguard children's welfare within the setting. The childminder has attended safeguarding children training and has provided a written child protection policy, which she shares with parents. She has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very well settled in the childminder's home and they relate well to her. They are provided with lots of opportunities to socialise with other children, both within the home and through attendance at local childcare groups. Children enjoy being in the company of the childminder. She provides them with a varied and stimulating range of activities, which promotes their learning in an enjoyable way.

Children under three explore and experiment through a good range of activities that are fun, easily accessible and appropriate for their stage of development. Young children are beginning to make themselves understood through language and actions. This is supported extremely well by the childminder speaking to children, listening and acknowledging what they are saying, narrating activities and encouraging them to say new words.

Children love looking at books with the childminder and cuddle up on her lap to listen to their favourite stories such as 'The Skipping Rope Snake'. They enjoy many role play opportunities, using bright, colourful dressing up clothes and props boxes to extend their imaginative play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a very good understanding of equalities issues. She looks after children from various backgrounds and has a very positive attitude towards diversity. She has an exceptional range of toys, equipment and resources that contain many positive images of society and she uses these effectively and in line with her ongoing commitment to providing inclusion for all children and their families. For example, she has a positive images folder which she shares with children and many posters, books and puzzles showing men and women in non traditional roles, such as women fire fighters and men changing nappies or doing the cleaning. Her resources also depict images of different cultures and abilities in a very positive way and she has a comprehensive list of dietary customs relating to different cultures.

The childminder is positive and sensitive about working with children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and works closely with parents to ensure that their needs are fully assessed and met.

Children's behaviour is generally very good and they play well together. The childminder uses praise and rewards to encourage good behaviour; appropriate strategies according to the age

and stage of development of children help them to understand right from wrong. Children take an active part in deciding what their rules for behaviour should be and house rules are worded in a very positive way, for example, 'we will all be kind to each other' and 'we will say sorry if we hurt someone or their feelings'.

The childminder pays high priority to establishing and securing the links between home and the setting, ensuring parents are actively involved in their child's learning. Parents receive detailed information in terms of a parents' information pack, which includes all the childminder's policies and procedures. The good partnership with parents contributes considerably to children's well-being while at the setting; regular informal discussions with parents ensure continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well-planned environment where they receive very good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Written policies and procedures relating to all of the National Standards guide the childminder in her daily practice; this ensures children's needs are effectively met and all relevant information is shared with parents. An excellent two-way flow of information ensures continuity of care.

The childminder is committed to keeping herself aware and up-to-date with current childcare trends and to attending further childcare and development courses; this will help her to reflect, monitor and improve the current very good quality of care and education offered to children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 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):

- keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to 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