

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357729
Inspection date	21 July 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 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 husband and four adult children and a fifteen-year-old child in Clapton, in the London Borough of Hackney. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and a first floor bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. The childminder works in her home with her daughter who is also a registered childminder. When working with her co childminder the childminder is registered for a maximum of six children. They are currently minding one child under five on a part time basis.

The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children effectively stay healthy because the childminder follows current and up-to-date environmental health and hygiene guidelines. For example, the house is thoroughly cleaned prior to the arrival of the children and all surfaces cleaned with anti-bacterial spray. The childminder has all necessary policies and procedures in place, for example, the administration of medicines, accident records, consent forms and sick child policy. However, her co childminder takes responsibility to update information and ensure that they are kept appropriately. Children have a good understanding of simple good health and hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before they eat and using tissues appropriately. The childminder supports the younger children to begin to use tissues by leaving tissues on a low level, so when needed children can take them independently.

Children are well nourished because the childminder provides healthy menus for them. The childminder is the main cook and her co childminder assists her if needed. She has a good understanding of a nutritional and healthy diet. For example, children enjoy pasta, roasts, rice and chicken. While the childminder prepares and cooks fresh foods her co childminder supports the children in their learning and play. Children respond well to routines, such as mealtimes and personal hygiene. For example, children enthusiastically wash their hands and sit at the table before the meal is presented. They are relaxed and happy as they wait patiently.

Children enjoy some physical activity. For example, the childminder and co childminder take the children to two local parks and regularly attend a monthly drop-in group for childminders. Children can access fresh air, large mobile toys and climbing apparatus. Their small motor movements are also supported through activities, such as threading, drawing and using tools when playing with the dough. However, the outdoor play area at the childminder's home is currently overgrown in places and contains some debris. Consequently, children's safety is compromised and opportunities to spontaneously access outdoor space limited.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and warm home. The childminder displays posters, children's creative work and a parents' notice board. Play equipment is attractively set up on the floor and accessible to all the children. The indoor space is risk assessed on a daily basis, consequently, children can play safely. However, the outdoor play space presents some hazards and as such compromises children's safety.

Children use a wide range of suitable equipment because the childminder has a good understanding of child development. She matches play equipment to the age and stage of development of the child. For example, a two year old child completes a simple puzzle with support and the childminder offers praise and encouragement. Equipment is safe because the childminder and her co childminder thoroughly risk assess toys before they are stored away. In addition, all toys are washed weekly so they are safe for younger children.

Children are protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice. Consequently children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. Children are well supported by the childminder as she offers plenty of encouragement and praise, enabling them to achieve and gain a positive experience. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities that appeal. For example, a simple puzzle is finished and quickly the child assembles a matching game, recognising some letters and shapes.

The childminder plans her day well, providing a wide range of stimulating activities with a clear understanding of each child's age and stage of development. This helps each child to be kept interested, take part and have fun. For example, selections of small world animals are collected and the child identifies each of the animals' names.

Children enjoy regular outings including the library and visiting a local childminder 'pop-in' group once a month. 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. The childminder supports their play by interacting with them on a one-to-one basis. They also benefit from being able to socialise with a regular group of children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive appropriate support and care from the childminder, who works well with parents to ensure children feel a sense of belonging and are fully included in family life. Children's continuity of care, benefits from the established two-way communication system between parents and the childminder, which enables her to meet children's needs successfully and treat children equally.

Children move about the home confidently, behave well and know the boundaries that are in place. Children learn to understand self-control and the childminder encourages them to feel valued and respected as individuals. She meets each child's individual needs and follows their own routine after careful discussion with the child's parents.

Children receive appropriate support in their activities and in their play as the childminder interacts with all children on their own level. They become aware of our wider society and of other cultures by walking around the neighbourhood. Children play with puzzles, dolls and dressing-up clothes, all offering positive representation of diversity, as well as an extensive range of books.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease within the family environment and play happily in the childminder's care, which contributes to them feeling confident to initiate their own play. Their development through play benefits from the childminder's organisation of the toys, resources and equipment. Children benefit from the co childminding arrangement because this means organisation of tasks allows for children to be well supported at all times.

The childminder shares appropriate information on individual children with parents and provides a flexible service. Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. These include behaviour, equal opportunities and child protection. All permissions and records for each child are in place, with parents discussing policies with the childminder at their induction. The responsibility for documentation is the childminder's co-minder, who regularly ensures all records are up-to-date and accurate.

Children benefit from the practitioner's knowledge as she continues to complete childcare training. Overall, 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):

- ensure outdoor play area is clear of hazards for children to play and exercise safely

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