

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY307518
Inspection date	13 June 2008
Inspector	Susan Ennis
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 2005. She lives with her husband and four children aged four, six, 12 and 15 in Bush Hill Park, Enfield. The whole of the ground floor and one bedroom of the childminder's maisonette is used for childminding.

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. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and comfortable home environment. Their health is securely promoted as the childminder follows sound hygiene procedures such as cleaning areas used by the children on a daily basis and providing individual towels for each of them. A written sick children's policy, which is discussed with the parents also protects children as it helps prevent cross-infection. However, permission to seek medical treatment is not in place affecting children's

welfare in an emergency situation. Children understand simple health and hygiene practices because they are encouraged by the childminder to for example, wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet, discussing germs and the need for cleanliness whilst doing so.

Children participate in a varied range of physical activities, contributing to their good health. The childminder encourages outdoor activities such as the walk to and from school and playing in the suitably-equipped park on the swings or slide. Children also enjoy physical activities inside such as dancing to different types of music and action rhymes developing their coordination and spatial awareness. Children's rest and sleep patterns are fully discussed with parents and accommodated. They are appropriately nourished with healthy snacks and meals provided by their parents, promoting their growth and development. Children's dietary requirements are fully discussed and adhered to.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe environment in which they are able to move around independently and freely. Colourful posters are displayed on the walls encouraging the children to; for example, learn the names of fruit and vegetables and three dimensional shapes. The childminder carries out informal risk assessments and takes sound steps to minimise the hazards, for example, accessible plug sockets are covered and safety gates are in place on the kitchen preventing the children from having unsupervised access to this area. However, the toilet lock is accessible and as it cannot be opened from the outside potentially affects the children's safety. Also the childminder does not practise the emergency evacuation procedure affecting children's safety in an emergency situation. Children learn about keeping themselves safe as they are encouraged to learn, for example, about road safety. They also learn about hazards in the house being reminded not to climb on the furniture in case they fall and hurt themselves.

Children are able to independently select activities from a suitable range of toys and equipment. The childminder sensitively supervises the children's choices ensuring that they are both safe and appropriate for their age and stage of learning. For example, board games for older children are placed on a higher shelf preventing the younger children from accessing the small pieces contained within them. Children's welfare is sufficiently promoted because the childminder has a sound understanding of the child protection procedures. However, as the government guidance and local contact details for concerns are not in place, children's welfare is affected should concerns arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, settled and interested in their play. They relate confidently to the childminder who extends their play and learning using her childcare experience. They freely self-select resources and activities to play with. For example, children choose the musical instruments to play with shaking a maraca-shaped item and laughing as it makes different sounds. Children participate in all the activities because the childminder uses her good knowledge of child development to adapt activities encouraging all to become involved. Younger children are given more hands-on support whilst older children are encouraged more verbally. Children also benefit from the one to one care offered by the childminder. Whilst sitting next to each other the childminder shows them how to place different items into the shape sorter. Having watched her children then copy the movements smiling at the childminder as they do so

demonstrating pleasure in their accomplishments. Children are effectively challenged as harder items such as puzzles are gradually introduced to progress their learning.

Children are stimulated by the broad range of activities provided. Their imagination skills are developed through creative activities and role play scenarios. Children thoroughly enjoy playing with the dressing-up clothes and 'cooking' with the pretend fruits and fajitas. They then involve the childminder in their play by offering her a 'cup of tea' which she pretends to drink. Their language skills are encouraged through age-appropriate interaction and the looking at and reading of books and their creative skills are developing as they enjoy using the cutters with the play dough and painting. They are developing their independence skills as they copy the childminder's own children sitting on the stairs to take off their shoes and selecting their cup when they need a drink. Children respond well to the childminder doing as asked and sitting on her lap for a cuddle when starting to feel tired demonstrating their trust and ease with the situation.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder ensures that she is aware of the children's individual needs and meets them appropriately. Daily conversations with parents and a written diary ensure that they are informed about their child's development and care. The children demonstrate a trusting and caring relationship with the childminder coming to her for security and reassurance when needed. Children's behaviour is suitable, being reinforced by the childminder's secure understanding of consistent and age-appropriate strategies such as distraction and positive praise. Children understand the ground rules and are learning good manners and how to be respectful of each other.

Children's understanding of the wider community is actively encouraged by the childminder who provides a range of resources and activities that positively promote our society such as books and dressing up clothes. Children also enjoy celebrating festivals such as Diwali and Christmas and are learning everyday phrases in languages such as Bengali. Although the childminder has no experience in caring for children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties she is able to effectively care for all children.

Children's needs and welfare are suitably met because the childminder has a positive relationship with parents. Information is regularly shared and parents are informed of most of the required procedures. However, the complaints procedure is not made readily available to them potentially affecting their relationship with the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder suitably organises her work, helping children feel comfortable, relaxed and secure. They are confident often initiating their own play and learning. The individual needs of all the children are soundly met by the childminder through her procedures, ensuring that most relevant information is in place. However, children's actual times of attendance are not consistently recorded leading to potential disagreements with parents and affecting the children's safety if an incident occurs.

The childminder uses her good range of childcare knowledge to assist her in planning a safe, stimulating and caring environment for the children. She ensures that the children are offered

a varied range of activities that all are able to participate in, encouraging their development in all the areas of learning as well as their independence and self-esteem. The childminder regularly attends further training courses updating her childcare knowledge and enabling her to offer better care for the children in her care. Overall, the needs of all the children are met.

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 satisfactory. 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 for children to receive emergency medical treatment or advice
- ensure that hazards in the household are made safe. Refers to the bathroom lock and emergency evacuation procedure
- ensure that all concerns are recorded in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' documents
- ensure that the complaints procedure is made more readily available to parents
- ensure that children's actual times of attendance are recorded.

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