



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	141248
Inspection date	06 September 2005
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool

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 1986. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11 years to adulthood. They live in the Walthamstow area of the London borough of Waltham Forest. The property is in walking distance to local transport facilities, schools and shops. The whole of the 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding three children aged under five all day. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children, and attends the local carer/toddler group. The

family has one fish aquariums.

The childminder is registered as a short term foster carer, and occasionally works with an assistant.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children health are protected because the childminder has an effective system in place for sick or injured children, and maintains a high level of hygiene to prevent the spread of germs. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating meals and after using the toilet, however they are not always helped to understand why hygiene is important. Recent training in first aid ensure that her knowledge is up to date in the event of an accident. Children benefit from occasional physical exercise, which is limited to short walks around the local area. Overall, children's physical abilities and skills are not always sufficiently promoted because the childminder rarely offer regular opportunities in this area of development. Younger children are given opportunities to rest or sleep according to their individual needs.

Children benefit from a healthy because they are provided with food that is appropriate for their individual dietary needs. Parents mostly supply the meals for their children, and the childminder provides a varied nutritious snacks, which includes a choice of fresh fruits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children independently select toys of their choice from a reasonable range of resources that are developmentally appropriate for their age and abilities. They move around freely in an environment that affords them ample space to work and play. Children's security is put at risk when playing in the garden because of two unsecured garden gates that leads off the premises. They are kept reasonably safe indoors because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of safety issues. She has put in place some measures to reduce potential hazards such as restricting children's access to the kitchen and safe keeping of medication. However, the current procedure for sleeping babies pose a risk to their well-being. In addition to this, children have access to an industrial sewing machine in the 'sleep' room.

Children are generally protected because the childminder is familiar with child protection procedures and understands her responsibilities with regards to safeguarding children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good relationships with the childminder, and they are beginning to play alongside and enjoy each others company. Younger children are beginning to steadily separate from their parents because of the positive working relationships between childminder and parents. They are learning to communicate their ideas and feelings through smiling, gesturing and responding to the childminder simple instructions. Older children communication and thinking skills are developing well because the childminder listen to value their comments and respond to their questions.

Children are offered a reasonable quantity and range of toys, though there are some limitations to the provision of activities to promote their sensory experiences and skills. Children enjoy listening to stories, and older children in particular show increasing book handling skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's needs are met because the childminder has established positive relationships with their parents. The childminder keeps parents informed about their children's progress through daily verbal exchange of information, and on occasion through brief written details about their children's activities and progress. Children are generally happy, settled and make reasonable progress because the childminder gets to know about each child's individual needs though activities are not always planned with children's interests in mind.

Children come from different cultural backgrounds and they are all given equal time and attention. They are steadily becoming familiar with each others similarities and differences as they work and play alongside each other, and attend community groups in the local area. On the whole, children only learn a little about other people backgrounds through the few books, puzzles and dolls that reflects diversity. Children's positive interaction with the childminder and her consistent approach to managing their behaviour contributes to them feeling

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are content and settle quickly because the childminder creates a warm and friendly environment. The childminder offers children a consistent routine that is similar to their routine from home, and meets with their individual needs. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant, who at time assist with the care of children. The childminder is generally interested in further developing her knowledge of child development, and has recently completed and achieved a qualification in childcare. She is keen to develop her knowledge further in order to improve the quality of care and education she offers to children.

The childminder keeps relevant paperwork that is required for the welfare and safe management of children. Written agreements between childminder and parents are in

place to ensure that children's care expectations are met. However, all the appropriate checks have yet to be carried out on all those over 16 years living on the premises. At present the childminder has an inefficient system for checking the suitability of others who have access to children.

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 develop written documentation, and monitor children's attendance. She now keeps a daily record of most children's arrival and departure times, records medication administered and accidents to children for the purpose of promoting their care and welfare.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- provide a range of indoor and outdoor activities which challenges and support children's physical development
- make sure appropriate procedures are put in place for children's safety when sleeping in another room
- reduce the risk of children leaving the premises unsupervised, and make industrial sewing machine inaccessible to them.
- ensure that the appropriate checks are completed on all those over 16 years who are living on the premises

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and*

concerns about inspectors' judgements which is available from Ofsted's website:
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