



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	140126
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 October 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Asia Islam
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 registered in 1985. She lives with her husband and three adult children in the Turnpike Lane area of the London borough of Haringey. The ground floor rear sitting and dining area, toilet and garden are accessible for childminding. The family has a cat and a dog (Bichon Frise).

The childminder currently has two children aged between two and five years on roll. She takes the children to the local drop in centre four times a week. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a very clean and caring environment. Their personal care is well attended to. The childminder's routines include regular nappy changing for younger children, and hand washing after toilet and before handling food. They have healthy lunches which consist of pasta, chicken and carrots, and grapes for snack time. Drinking water and juice are easily accessible. The meals and snacks are provided with parents agreement, and with regard to children's dietary requirements and preferences. Children benefit from the childminder's good understanding of the procedures to follow for accidents and illness, for example the childminder holds a valid first-aid qualification, and has a fully stocked first-aid box in easy access.

Children regularly visit the local drop-in centre, where they have the opportunity to access resources to promote their large motor skills. One day a week, the childminder makes her garden accessible to the children. A small slide, a bike and some balls are set out in the garden for children's play. Their emotional needs are supported very well, for example the younger children's comfort toys are well known by the childminder, and she responds readily to their request for them which helps them to sleep, whilst she also keep the older children engaged in their chosen activity.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an environment that is positively welcoming, safe and secure. Risk assessments are regularly carried out by the childminder, who ensures that the children's safety when playing indoors, in the garden and when going outside. Older children talk about the dangers of using sharp scissors and understand the importance of using children's scissors. Emergency evacuation procedures are currently explained to the older children, but not practised with younger children. A fire blanket is provided in the kitchen and is within easy reach, but is not wall mounted. As a result, children's safety is being compromised.

There are a suitable range of resources and equipment for children's play, although the resources available for their role-play does not fully extend the older children's imaginative play and learning. The available resources for their physical development is mainly appropriate for the younger children. The constructional resources do not always offer the older children sufficient challenges. Resources are neatly stored on shelves and in boxes, but are not always easily accessible.

Children are protected and safeguarded by the childminder, who understands the issues relating to child protection. She knows the signs and symptoms of abuse, and the authorities to contact in the event of any concern. The necessary guidance books are in place for this purpose.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy. They have established good relationships with each other and the childminder. They confidently talk with each other and the childminder about what they are doing, and about their families. The childminder shows good interest and support in what they do and say. Younger children's resources are piled together on a low table for them to self select. This consist of a mixed range of play resources . This arrangement does not help to make resources interesting and purposeful. Older children's resources are not always set out for them to choose independently but are mainly brought out on request. The childminder frequently asks children what they would like to do, and closely monitors and supports their interest. Older children are very familiar with the childminder's routines, and freely ask the childminder for play resources that they need. They also know to tidy up when they finish playing with an activity.

Older children are closely encouraged to express creativity in making a bracelet with beads, and colouring with crayons, which also supports their early mark making and writing skills. They share books with the childminder, which helps their early recognition of letters and their understanding of colours, shapes, numbers and sizes. For example, the childminder talks about small and big beads and asks the child to measure around her own wrist. The Birth to three framework for younger children and the Curriculum guidance for foundation stages for older children are not currently used to plan their activities.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children's understanding and awareness of diversity is encouraged through regular visits to local facilities, where they meet other children and people from the locality. They have opportunities to play with books and dolls that reflect positive images of culture in the childminder's home. Both boys and girls enjoy equal access to activities and resources. Children benefit from the good working relationships held between the childminder and their parents. Information on children's individual needs are initially obtained by the childminder to help them settle. Regular information is exchanged verbally about children' s progress with the parents to provide consistent care. The children's established relationship with the childminder, the availability of their own drinking-cup and comfort toys supports their sense of belonging. Children play, behave very well together, and show concern for each other's wellbeing.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and relaxed. They benefit from suitably organised routines that take into consideration their individual needs for care, rest, play and learning. They are cared for by an established childminder who has a satisfactory

understanding of the requirements of the National Standards for childminding. Currently, she has no knowledge of the Birth to three framework for supporting younger children's development.

Children are secure and settled in her care. The childminder meets the required adult-child ratio, and offers them good supervision. All the required procedures and records for children's attendance, accidents and medications are in place, and supports their wellbeing. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last care inspection the childminder was asked to provide sufficient play resources and equipment for children aged between two and eight years, to fit smoke alarms at every level of the premises, frequently check the first-aid box and replace stocks as necessary, and maintain an up-to-date attendance register with the necessary details.

The childminder currently has a range of resources and equipment to support the development needs of the children aged under five years, smoke alarms are fitted at every level of the house, the first-aid box is stocked with the required items, and the daily attendance register is up to date with the required details. As a result the childminder adequately meets the developmental needs of the children aged under five years, has improved their safety measures within the premises, management of accidents and the records required.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are 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):

- improve the emergency evacuation practice to promote children's safety
- review the available resources and ensure the range provided is balanced

and is of sufficient challenge for children

- organise resources to fully promote children's independence and purposeful play
- develop knowledge and understanding of the many positive ways of promoting children's development by the use of Birth to three framework for younger children and the Curriculum guidance for the foundation stages for older children

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