



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	128272
Inspection date	08 December 2005
Inspector	Rufia Uddin
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 has been a registered childminder since 1993. She lives with her husband and an adult son in a house in Redbridge. It is within walking distance of the local school and shops. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children from two years to under eight years; of these, not more than three may be under five years at any one time . She is currently caring for one child on a part-time basis.

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 are cared for in a warm, clean, well-organised home. Children are healthy because the childminder follows good hygiene procedures and promotes a healthy lifestyle. An established routine and regular discussions enable children to learn about the positive impact on their health as they practise good personal hygiene. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals reduces the risk of cross contamination. Children learn about healthy options and are actively encouraged to make choices, as they are offered what they want. Healthy snacks and regular drinks are provided. Children benefit from daily opportunities to be active and from regular walks. The children walk from school and are accompanied by the childminder. Children are, at times, engaged in activities which contribute to their health such as play outside in the garden with the football and bikes, and so extend their physical skills on a daily basis.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate and a first aid box. However, there is no parental consent to seek emergency medical advice and /or treatment and this may reduce the ability to provide the best response in the event of an accident or emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe home environment. The childminder's very good supervision of children helps ensure they are protected from harm. Space is well organised. Children have ample room to play, a quiet place to rest, and a comfortable area to enjoy their meals. Fire safety precautions are satisfactory.

The childminder has an appropriate emergency evacuation procedure in place to ensure she can get children out of her home quickly and safely. Medicines, bleach and other hazardous substances are stored safely out of children's reach. Appropriate safety equipment is provided in the childminder's home to keep children safe, including smoke alarms at each level of the house and a suitably equipped first aid box. Children have access to a good range of safe, suitable furniture, toys and equipment. These are age appropriate and are checked regularly by the childminder to ensure that they remain in good condition.

Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe. They know they must not open the front door. The childminder makes sure that children are kept safe on outings. They always hold the childminder's hand when out walking and know they must never run in the road. Children's understanding of road safety is promoted well. They discuss potential dangers as they walk from school, learn to 'stop', 'look' and 'listen' when crossing the road, and understand the importance of

wearing seat belts when travelling in the car.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what action she must take if she has concerns about a child. This promotes children's well-being. All adults in the childminder's home are appropriately vetted and suitable to have access to children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to make choices from a wide range of resources which interest them. Children enjoy their time when they return from school as the childminder is sensitive to balancing the school day with relaxation and interesting activities. A varied range of resources are organised so that children are able to access them independently. Children play with a wide range of familiar activities and the childminder offers opportunities for them to do their homework and helps them to read books. Children play together harmoniously, sharing ideas and talking happily. The parents and childminder work together to meet the children's needs

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel secure and confident. Their individual needs are met in consultation with parents. Children are beginning to develop respect for themselves and others which is enhanced through discussions with the childminder, who acts as a positive role-model. She encourages the children to value everyone's individuality and diversity.

The childminder has no experience of caring for children with special needs, but demonstrated a positive attitude towards caring for children with special needs. She is aware of the importance promoting an inclusive environment.

The childminder uses effective methods for managing behaviour, this helps children to understand the needs of others. They show care and concern for each other, play together harmoniously, and behave well. Positive behaviour is encouraged and praised by the childminder, which encourages children to understand responsible behaviour and become self-disciplined. Children make themselves at home and are consistently cared for. Their daily routines are followed as discussed with their parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's appropriately managed childminding service. They are happy, settled and confident in her care. The childminder has a clear

understanding of the National Standards for Childminding and her responsibility to comply with these and the conditions of her registration. This promotes children's well-being appropriately.

The childminder has created a child-centred environment in which she offers ample support to the children to support their learning and play. The children can choose to play independently with the easily accessible play and learning resources.

The childminder maintains a good standard of safety in her home. Regular discussions with parents ensure that they are well informed about the service and their children's activities and progress. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. The childminder uses a range of written records which are organised and generally effective in supporting the childminding business but aspects have been overlooked as there is no written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, and there is no system to record complaints. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has ensured children are safe in the garden area. She has made efforts to improve her supply of play equipment that reflects positive images that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, and has gained a greater understanding of child protection issues and of procedures to follow should she have any concerns.

Since the last inspection the childminder has recorded the names of the children looked after and hours of attendance in a daily register which promotes good partnership with parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The childminder 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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and devise a system for the recording of complaints.

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: www.ofsted.gov.uk