



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160127
Inspection date	14 December 2005
Inspector	Martha Naa Ahimah Darkwah

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 2001. She lives with her husband, three children aged 10, 7 and 3 years in West Ealing in the London Borough of Ealing.

The whole of the house is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day and one child over five before

and after school.

The family have no pets.

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's health and welfare is fully promoted by the childminder. They learn good health and hygiene practices such as, hand washing and washing fruits before they eat them. The childminder's home is very clean and well maintained. Children are protected from unnecessary illness because the childminder has a comprehensive written sick child policy, which is shared with parents. Children do not attend if they are infectious or ill.

Appropriate treatment is administered in the event of an accident as the childminder holds a valid first aid certificate. Children's individual well-being is of great importance to the childminder. As a result, all of the required policies and procedures are in place, shared with parents and implemented well. For example, medication, accidents and parental consent for emergency treatment consent or advice are in sufficient detail. Children's individual medical needs are met because the childminder maintains clear records of medication which is shared with parents.

Children enjoy healthy snacks such as: fruits, raisins and home made cookies. The childminder provides healthy meals and snacks for children according to their individual dietary requirements which is determined after discussing with parents and making a record of this. At mealtimes, children are able to sit comfortably and they enjoy this sociable time when they chat to the childminder and each other.

Children are developing good physical skills. They have regular outdoor play opportunities and visits to local pre-schools and places of interest. For example, in the garden they can play in the sand pit, sit and rides and use the mini slide. They also enjoy physical activities such as, climbing, running, jumping at the park and toddler group.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very warm and welcoming home. They are very relaxed and happy because the childminder has made her home safe and secure. Good safety measures are taken therefore children are not at risk. For example, children practise the fire evacuation procedure and risk assessments are carried out daily indoors and outdoors.

Children are learning to take responsibility to keep themselves safe as they walk to

and from school. The childminder teaches them about road safety and they know they must stay with her at all times and follow the green cross code.

Children are able to play, eat and rest comfortably as a good range of well maintained furniture and equipment is provided. For example: high chair, toilet step, door slammer guards and stair gate.

Children's welfare is fully safeguarded as the childminder has a good working knowledge and understanding of child protection. She is fully aware of her responsibilities to protect children and the reporting procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child or when an allegation is made against her.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are having an enjoyable time as they involve themselves in the very good range of activities provided. They are very keen to spend time with the childminder and her family. Children are making good progress in all areas of their development because the childminder has a good range of suitable toys and resources for the ages of children attending.

They enjoy well planned activities. Children particularly enjoy painting, using finger puppets for a lively story time, having fun with play dough and sand play. They have very good opportunities to explore using their senses as they listen to nursery rhymes and use play dough. Children are developing good mathematical skills as they count during every routine, recognise shapes, colours and numbers during their play.

The childminder provides adequate support and appropriate challenges for all children which helps them to sustain a good level of involvement in activities. They are well supported in their play because the childminder is involved and stimulates their learning and interest. They enthusiastically make their own choices and decisions. They play co-operatively together as they show real kindness and consideration towards each other.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing self-esteem and they are happy. Both children and childminder have mutual respect for each other and the children's individual interests are encouraged by the childminder. All children are treated equally and they thoroughly enjoy the time they spend with her. Children are learning about the world they live in as there is a good range of toys and resources which reflect different cultures and experiences in life.

Children's individual needs are met effectively. The childminder has a positive attitude to the care of children with special needs. The childminder treats them with kindness and respect as individuals, using good child-centred techniques to manage any challenging behaviour. For example, by using distraction for inappropriate

behaviour and explaining right or wrong to children in ways that they understand, they are able to know what is acceptable behaviour. Children receive praise for positive behaviour. The childminder discusses behaviour management techniques with parents to provide consistency keeps a record.

The childminder places a strong emphasis on building very good relationships with parents. All of the relevant documentation is in place and put into practise to the benefit of the children. There is a daily exchange of information about the children's routine, care and activities verbally and in writing.

Additionally, parents are given very good information about the childminder's provision. Children benefit from continuity of care because the childminder regularly consults with parents to share their views and wishes about the care and education of their child. She continues to develop her knowledge of child care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare, care and development is positively promoted because the childminder has a very good understanding of caring for young children. She is suitably qualified to work with young children and keen to develop her knowledge by attending various training courses. For example, 'Business for success'.

The children are extremely well cared for and overall, the record keeping is thorough and up to date. Parents are fully informed about the childminder's complaint procedure. For example, parents have given various consents for outings, giving of medication and seeking emergency medical treatment or advice and children's individual dietary and medical needs. They have read the comprehensive policies and procedures about the childminding practice and signed a child protection statement.

The childminder is keen to develop her knowledge further by attending the course "Birth to three matters". The children are having an enjoyable time, they settle well and feel safe and secure in this very child-friendly environment. 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 agreed to improve the range of toys and resources that promote people with disabilities thereby giving the children a wider reflection of our society. She has purchased a number of books on people with disabilities which is included in the selection of books available to children.

She also agreed to increase her knowledge and understanding of the Area Child Protection Committee Procedures to aid her in dealing with any child protection concerns should they arise for the protection of children.

Children's welfare is fully safeguarded as the childminder demonstrates a very good

working knowledge and understanding of Child Protection procedures. She has good systems in place to enable her to act confidently and swiftly to protect children should the need arise.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint relating to two of the National Standards.

On the 29 July 2005 concerns were raised regarding National Standards 1 and 11 related to suitable person and behaviour management techniques.

Following a thorough investigation, which included visits to the childminder and an interview under caution, we found that the childminder had operated in breach of the conditions of her registration. We issued a formal warning for this offence. We also set an action for the childminder to comply with the conditions of her registration.

As a result of our investigation, but not relating to the complaint, we found evidence that the childminder had breached Standards 7, 12, 13 and 14. A number of actions were set, and we were satisfied that the childminder took appropriate steps to meet the requirements. We also made a recommendation for the childminder to further improve her practice, under Standard 12.

No further action was taken and the childminder remains qualified for registration.

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

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The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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):

- attend Birth to Three Matters training to continue to provide good care for younger children

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