



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY221259
Inspection date	27 October 2005
Inspector	Julia Louise Crowley

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 2002. She lives with her husband and two adult sons in Edmonton within the London Borough of Enfield. They live in a house. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is no outdoor play area. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She takes children to the local library, parks and some child focused groups.

The childminder is registered for four children at any one time she currently has two children on a full time basis on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment where they begin to learn to follow simple hygiene practices such as washing their hands prior to eating, after playing and using the toilet. However the lack of information means that children do not understand the reason or the importance of good hygiene.

They enjoy a range of activities, which help to promote good health i.e. walking to and from the park on a daily basis, dancing to music and using their own tissues and towels. Children's fine motor skills are developing well when selecting and using small items such as small figures and using books. However the children would benefit from easier access to all toys to develop confidence and independence.

Children receive snacks during the day however they are not healthy or varied, i.e. crisps, biscuits and sweets. Meals are provided by the parents and these are effectively stored to prevent spoiling. Fresh drinks are available at all times and children indicate to the childminder when they would like them. This encourages children to think about their own personal needs. Parents give prior written consent to administer medication that ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and can therefore give appropriate care if there is an accident.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. Children have some access to a good range of toys and resources appropriate for their age, however the children's access is limited by stacking the boxes of toys on top of one another. Good routines and gentle reminders, help the children learn about safety within the setting such as tidying toys away so that they do not trip over them.

Children enjoy their play in a safe and secure environment. Regular risk assessments, indoors ensure children's safety. The childminder organises the indoor space sufficiently, allowing children to move around safely, freely and independently. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures, for example socket covers, effective emergency evacuation procedure and a secure outdoor play area.

Children are protected and their safety is promoted because the childminder has a good understanding of her role with regard to child protection. She ensures policies and procedures are implemented effectively in practice, including arrangements for the collection of children and emergency cover. She has a good knowledge of child protection procedures and how to follow these where concerns are raised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and relaxed in the childminders home. They move from room to room exploring space and some play activities. Children are involved and participate in games and activities, using language and expression to develop games into imaginative stories. For example, the children pretend to cook chapatti for their Mummy and Daddy and discuss who is the best cook. Children invite the childminder to play a part in their imaginative game, however she responds reluctantly to their requests. Children gain pleasure and excitement from the childminder's participation and thoroughly enjoy the activity.

Children select some toys from a partly accessible range of resources. Children are familiar with toys that they can access and enjoy playing with them. For example, children play with puzzles, games, small world toys and cooking equipment. Children make some independent choices and mostly access the toys easily. They are introduced to some new toys that extend their learning and offer sufficient challenge. For example, one word books to simple sentences, are read to the children. Children spend time with the childminder looking at the book, enabling them to increase their concentration and develop their language.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children appear to be responsive to adults and resourceful, despite the childminder's inconsistent attention that is offered. They make their own games and generally they do not involve her. Children are generally well behaved and responsive to the childminder; however the childminder does not effectively deal with confrontation between the children. For example, children are expected to give up toys for the younger children, without explanation or alternative toys offered. Children squabble over toys because of the lack of choice and restricted access to the toys. Children aimlessly play with no intervention from the childminder. Children's learning experience is limited through a lack of enthusiasm or motivation shown by the childminder.

Children benefit from a sharing of information between parents and childminder. This enables the child to receive consistent care and effective support. However the childminder was limited in her ability to discuss openly with parents all issues regarding the children's welfare, therefore not catering for all the child's needs.

Children learn to accept differences within the community around them through dolls, books and puzzles, although few resources reflect disability.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and benefit from a well organised environment. Toys and play

equipment must be made accessible at all times to enable children to access toys and have independent choice. The childminder needs to use her time effectively and both motivate and inspire the children with a range of fun and interesting activities.

Policies and procedures are organised effectively to promote welfare, care and learning of children. Children's information is made available to their parents, which encourages progress and support for the child. This also contributes to continuity in the child's care. This means that the needs of the children who attend are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection, the childminder was asked to ensure a good use of space and resources. The childminder has provided adequate space for the children to play. They are able to move freely and safely. However some of the childminders play resources are not effectively used or accessible to the children, therefore opportunities to enjoy and achieve through play are lost.

The childminder has written confirmation from parents where needed ensuring that parents are informed of children's activities during the day. The childminder works in partnership with the parents, enabling the children to receive consistency and support.

Since the last inspection the childminder acknowledges that she has a responsibility to notify Ofsted of serious injury and infectious communicable diseases. The childminder has increased her knowledge of infectious diseases and therefore she is able to assess, monitor and care for children effectively.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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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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):

- ensure that the children have explanation to support their learning in completing healthy tasks
- provide healthy snacks that encourage and promote health
- ensure the children's records include information regarding their individual requirements
- ensure all toys and play equipment is easily accessible to the minded children
- provide an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote positive images of disability
- develop knowledge and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development

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