



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY100580
Inspection date	09 March 2006
Inspector	Liz Corr

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 registered since August 2002. She lives in a 2 bedroom maisonette occupying the basement and ground floor of a terraced house in the N1 area of the London Borough of Islington. The premises are close to most public transport links. Local parks and drop-in groups are also nearby.

Areas for childminding are the whole of the ground floor and the play room in the basement. There is a fully enclosed garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children under 8 years at

any one time. She is currently caring for 1 full time child and 3 part time children all aged under 5 years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and has a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the good procedures in place to promote their health. For example, the sickness procedure is shared both verbally and in writing with parents. Consequently children are well cared for if they become ill. The childminder has a valid certificate in Emergency Treatment for children. However, not all parents have given consent for emergency medical treatment.

Children are protected from infection by good hygiene procedures and are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. They are provided with individual bedding at rest time and are learning to independently wash their hands and faces. They have access to individual flannels which helps to prevent the spread of cross infection.

Children enjoy meals prepared by their parents. The childminder supplements their diet with a satisfactory range of snacks and drinks. Children are reminded to take drinks regularly and are learning that this will help to cool them down after vigorous exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child-friendly environment where hazards are minimised. This enables them to move freely and independently. Their comfort is assured at rest and meal times by the use of appropriate furniture and equipment.

Children's safety is promoted by the use of suitable fire safety equipment such as, smoke alarms and a fire blanket. The childminder has a good understanding of how to evacuate in an emergency and a written plan is in place. However, this has not been practised with children and therefore they are not learning about how to keep themselves safe by practising an emergency evacuation plan.

Children are provided with a well maintained selection of play equipment. They are encouraged to help put out the tent and tunnel and are praised and encouraged for their efforts. They are beginning to understand the importance of tidying away and caring for the toys and equipment.

The childminder has a good understanding of how to recognise and report child protection concerns. She demonstrates a good awareness of the procedures to be

followed in the event of allegations being made against her.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled because the childminder knows them well. They enjoy themselves and are helped to achieve. They benefit from a relaxed environment, warm and caring relationships are evident. One child is upset when their parent leaves and is comforted and given a clear explanation. The child is satisfied and happily joins the other children.

Children enjoy a range of stimulating activities that motivate them to learn new skills. They learn how to make play dough for the first time and are given a clear explanation of what will happen when they add more flour. They are beginning to use mathematical language as they learn that some dough will need a little bit more flour and some will need a lot, to stop it from being sticky. They are learning about colours through everyday situations for instance, they are asked which colour apron they would like to use before they start their activity.

Children benefit from a range of activities outside the home. They enjoy visiting the park, walks along the new river to feed the ducks and a variety of well resourced drop-in groups. They are developing further social skills as they meet and interact with other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive individual attention because their needs and circumstances are known to the childminder. This helps ensure they feel settled and at home in her care.

Children are learning about diversity in society. For example, they have access to books and toys that acknowledge different cultures and reflect positive images of people with disabilities.

Children are happy and content, relating well to the childminder. She sensitively manages their behaviour and they are praised regularly. Children are learning to be considerate to each other as they are encouraged to help the younger ones. They are often asked to help the childminder for instance, one child is asked to find a chair for another child to sit on. They all take part in constructing the tent and are rewarded with lots of praise and encouragement. They are well mannered and are encouraged to say please and thank you.

The childminder works closely with parents, this helps ensure children are secure and settled. Parents are provided with clear information about the childminding service at the beginning of the contract. They are well informed of their child's daily progress and regularly take home their creative art work. This has a positive impact on the children's overall wellbeing and development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards for Childminding. The home is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. They feel at home and at ease in this caring environment. The parent's views are valued and there are systems in place to share information contributing to the children's sense of confidence and wellbeing.

The daily routines are based on the childminder's knowledge and understanding of the children's individual needs. Most documentation relating to childminding is well maintained and easily accessible. The childminder is committed to extending her childminding knowledge through further training and is a member of a local childminding network. This has a positive impact on children's wellbeing and development. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved her documentation for children's health by ensuring that parents give permission for her to seek emergency advice or treatment. However, one permission remains outstanding.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 by 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):

- improve safety by practising and recording the emergency evacuation plan
- ensure written permission from parents is obtained for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment

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