



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 101981
Inspection date 18 January 2006
Inspector Arda Halls

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 1975. She lives with her daughter aged 14 years in the London Borough of Camden. The whole of the third floor flat is used for childminding. There is no access to an outdoor area but children are regularly taken to the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under 5, two full-time and one part-time.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder

attends the local community centres and is a member of a local childminder support group. The family has no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The childminder has experience of supporting/caring for children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder sustains a high level of cleanliness throughout her home. They are well protected from unnecessary illness as the childminder has procedures in place to help stop the spread of germs, such as the childminder's good habit of washing hands following nappy changing and helping older children to develop good self-care skills, such as hand washing before and after meals and after using the toilet. Good policies and procedures are in place for first aid, accidents and medication, which ensures children are well cared for. The individual dietary needs of the children are met by the childminder as she prepares a good range of healthy foods for children, providing a variety of different vegetables and fruits. Children sit and eat comfortably in low chairs with attached tray and harness to keep them safe. They really enjoy sociable meal times with the childminder as she sits and chats to them. They are offered and are able to access drinking water independently from their individual feeder cup at any time so that they are not thirsty. Children are developing well physically as they have access to regular outings in the neighbourhood as well as activities indoors, such as playing on ride on toys. They have the opportunity to run around in a secure environment and benefit from regular daily physical exercise and fresh air. They have a great time playing with the musical caterpillar and they laugh with excitement as they reinforce numbers 1 to 3. They also go for walks to local parks and the library.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe indoors as the childminder is very safety conscious using stairgates when rooms are out of bounds, such as the kitchen while cooking or the balcony when being used for ventilation. Children are kept safe from the dangers of hot tea and other hazardous substances, such as perfume which the childminder intends on relocating to ensure children do not have access. Children are secure through the care the childminder takes to ensure they are well supervised both indoors and out. Outdoors, children are kept safe by using a double buggy with harness and for walking children by holding onto the buggy. Children learn about road safety through using the Green Cross Code. Children are taken to a variety of community centres as the childminder has an extensive list of places to visit in the area. The childminder's good understanding of child protection issues and awareness of the signs of abuse and procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child,

safeguards the children she cares for. Children's well-being is aided by the childminder's vigilance regarding child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very content in the care of the childminder. They are actively challenged with various choices to develop their independence and ability to choose activities of their liking. Children are encouraged to become independent with the use of coat pegs at an accessible level as well as toys all at a low level. Children are independent, very relaxed, quick to play with a good selection of toys and activities and display good self-esteem. Children are learning to enjoy story time and simple mathematics as they play. They benefit from constant praise and positive talk as they play. Children's language is encouraged effectively and there are plenty of opportunities to make decisions for themselves as they use the touch pad of an electronic toy or choose a book, puzzle or doll to play with. Training courses, such as Birth to three matters, are put into good use as the childminder talks freely of the children being "skilful communicators" and "finding a voice". Children are learning about the wider environment and gaining skills by enjoyment in doing real tasks and finding out about the environment. Children interact in a positive way and laugh as they play; when children tire of one game or toy they are presented with another. They benefit by the childminder's involvement in their play and experience handling and exploring many different textures and natural materials inside and outside the home, such as helping to gather up the shopping. Children are confident and well motivated; they have freedom to use planned activities, a choice of three or more, and the childminder lets children choose others if they prefer; she's very keen to follow their lead. Children have rich sensory experiences, and enjoy experimenting to see what different substances do as they touch and feel and explore all the resources, such as feely books, talking puzzles and dolls of various colours. Overall challenges for children, children's developing communication skills, independence, learning through breadth of experience and self-esteem are enhanced by the provision and care. Puzzles of varying degrees of difficulty are all available. Different dolls and soft toys are on the floor and easily accessible. There are plans to provide more resources to further enhance this provision.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

As children are fully engaged in meaningful play, their behaviour is good. The childminder uses age-appropriate and positive strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise. Good manners are also reinforced which helps to create a relaxed and harmonious atmosphere. They are developing good confidence and self-esteem because the childminder encourages the children in their daily activities. She gives the children praise and encouragement when they have done something well. For example, younger children are given praise when they try new foods for lunch. Children with special needs are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare. Through the variety of resources

provided, children are developing a positive view of the wider world, such as children have access to a variety of books, dolls and puzzles that represent people of different cultures. Children are valued and their individual needs are met because the childminder spends time getting to know them well. The required documentation is shared with parents and children receive the appropriate care as the childminder discusses and records individual care arrangements with parents. Children are very happy and content because the childminder has very good relationships with the parents, evident from the excellent references provided by parents. They work together to meet the children's individual care and developmental needs. Routines and activities recorded by the childminder are shared with parents on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel comfortable, at ease and settled within the childminder's home environment in which the correct adult/child ratios are maintained. The childminder, who has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the National Standards for childminding, organises the day to include a good variety of indoor play activities and physical exercise outdoors. This helps to ensure the progress of children's individual development and learning. Through her frequent attendance on excellent training courses, the childminder is enhancing her skills and knowledge of a variety of childcare related topics, for example, Birth to three matters training. As a result, the children's experiences in the care of the childminder remain positive and in-line with current good-practice. The childminder has in place well organised documentation which includes policies and procedures which are used effectively to support the well-being of the children. She maintains up-to-date records which are shared with parents. Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder as she has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for children and she meets their welfare and care needs effectively. This means, the childminder does meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides for.

Improvements since the last inspection

Improvements have been extensive since the last inspection. A much improved selection of multi-cultural resources has been made available. A system of recording administration of medication with appropriate parental consent forms is in place. New attendance records which are clearly laid out and easy to read are completed and up-to-date. The childminder is also in receipt of a booklet of "How to be prepared for an Ofsted Inspection" which has helped her to prepare more extensively for inspections including setting up clear guidance about child protection and the recording of concerns and setting up a system of appropriate fire drills to practise with children.

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 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):

- ensure hazardous substances such as perfume are inaccessible to 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