



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	133163
Inspection date	23 March 2006
Inspector	Moreen Johnson
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 1996. She lives with her 2 children aged 16 and 14 years old, in the London borough of Islington. The childminder holds an NVQ 3 certificate in childcare. The areas of the childminder's home used for childminding are the living room, 2 bedrooms and the kitchen. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is available to collect children from the local schools and attends local drop in groups on a regular basis

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 years old. There are currently 8 children under 8 years on roll. However, the childminder only cares for 6 children at any one time.

The family has a hamster.

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 is promoted well by the childminder who has a secure knowledge of health and safety procedures. The childminder is aware of the appropriate records that she is required to keep. However, medication records are not always signed by parents.

Children are developing a good understanding about personal hygiene, because the childminder wipes the children's hands before they are giving their snack. The childminder follows good hygiene practices by washing her hands before preparing food. She also follows a good nappy changing procedure. A good standard of cleanliness is maintained throughout the childminder's home.

Children benefit from a healthy diet because the childminder promotes healthy eating well. Children are offered a variety of nutritious meals and snacks, which include foods from other cultures. Children are given drinks at regular intervals throughout the day. The childminder works in partnership with parents, takes the children's individual needs into account and respects parents' wishes relating to special needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a well organised home in which a wide range of resources are easily accessible to them. Children have ample space available to allow them to move about confidently and independently. Children are able to rest comfortably because the childminder provides suitable sleeping facilities.

Children's safety is promoted well. The childminder has an excellent understanding of health and safety issues and carries out regular risk assessments of her home to eliminate hazards. Children are encouraged to develop an understanding of how to stay safe. They are encouraged to develop a good understanding of fire safety and have regular opportunities to practise emergency evacuation procedures.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder has a secure understanding of how to put child protection procedures into practice in line with the London Child Protection Procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are well settled and have good relationships with the childminder. They have excellent opportunities to socialise with other children and adults by attending local groups and the library. Children benefit from an extremely stimulating environment. The childminder uses her good knowledge and understanding of child development to plan activities well and in accordance with children's individual needs. Children engage in a wide range of purposeful

activities. They are supported well by the childminder to count in a meaningful way, to recognise colours and to play with an interesting variety of toys. There are good systems in place to record children's development. The childminder keeps good detailed records of children's development, monitors their progress and supports them to move on to the next stage of their learning.

Children's confidence and self esteem is promoted well by the childminder who values children's contributions and praises them for their achievements. Children are encouraged to be independent and they freely choose activities and are given good opportunities to initiate their own play.

Children are encouraged to develop good communication skills because the childminder constantly talks to them about what she does and actively encourages children to extend their language.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are valued and respected and their individual needs are met well. When children become unsettled the childminder holds and cuddles them, which results in the children being reassured. Children have excellent opportunities to learn about other cultures. They have access to a wide range of resources that portray positive images and have opportunities to socialise with children from other backgrounds. Children are developing an interest in the community by visiting a wide range of local facilities.

Children are developing a good understanding of appropriate behaviour and learn to distinguish between right and wrong. The childminder focuses on children's positive behaviour and uses an effective range of suitable methods by which to management inappropriate behaviour.

Partnership with parents is good. Children benefit from effective relationships between the childminder and their parents. There are good procedures in place to share information with parents about their child's progress. The childminder has a good complaints procedure in place which meets with current requirements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised home which is safe and secure. Children make good progress in all areas of their development and are supported well by the childminder. Most policies and procedures are in place but the childminder does not record children's attendance on arrival. Children have continuity of care, as a result of the good lines of communication between the childminder and parents in sharing information and records. 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 updated her knowledge and understanding of the needs of children with special needs and is now fully aware of how to work with parents and other professionals to meet children's needs.

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):

- maintain up to date written documentation of the daily attendance register and ensure that all medication records are signed by parents

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk