



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY101284
Inspection date	16 March 2006
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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 2 school aged children in a maisonette in the London Borough of Hounslow. All areas of the maisonette are used for childminding purposes. The children have supervised access to a communal outside play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 2 children at any one time. She is currently caring for 2 children under 3 years. One attends part time and the other attends full time.

The family has no pets.

The childminder takes children to local pre-schools and places of interest. She 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 being promoted successfully by the childminder who protects them from infections by teaching them to develop self care skills of using wipes and washing their hands after using the toilet.

The childminder has good knowledge and understanding of first aid to enable her to act appropriately to safeguard children. Their well being is promoted by the childminder through good nappy changing procedures and she maintains good standards of cleanliness in all areas of her home. For example, she uses a changing mat, wipes, gloves for nappy changing and washes her hands after each change. Clear and consistent procedures are in place for first aid, giving of medication, treating accidents and incidents, sickness and seeking emergency medical attention or advice. As a result children are protected from cross infection.

Children enjoy a selection of healthy snacks and meals. They benefit from healthy and nutritious food which meets their individual dietary requirements. Children enjoy sociable meal times. They sit and eat at the kitchen table using colourful individual cutlery, plates and cups. Children know they can have a drink at any time.

Children benefit from regular outdoor exercise at the local parks and pre-schools. They are therefore able to develop their physical skills and socialise with their peers. As a result children's overall physical development is catered for.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are welcomed into a clean, tidy home environment. They have sufficient space to play, eat and rest comfortably. Children have access to child sized furniture and equipment to meet their care and learning needs. However, children's safety is not fully assured because they climb on tall bunk beds in a room set aside as a play room. Additionally, children have easy access to the kitchen when meals are being prepared and at other times.

The childminder follows clear fire evacuation procedures; the windows have restricted opening and she has taken steps to prevent children from accessing sharp or toxic materials in the kitchen and bathroom.

The childminder does not always provide adequate supervision and safety of children. For example when they are left in a locked vehicle for a short period of time or when upstairs in the bedroom. As a result, some aspects of children's safety are compromised. Additionally, there is no evidence of insurance cover for the vehicle used for childminding.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection and the methods for reporting any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show some interest and play with toys available. They have access to a suitable range of toys and resources which promotes their learning and development. They are able to make free choices about what they want to play with and to self select, due to the storage and organisation of the toys in the home.

Children's play is generally supervised by the childminder. However, there are many missed opportunities to fully engage children and extend their learning through play within their daily routine. Although there is some purposeful interaction initiated by the childminder, this is limited. As a result, there are times when children run around, due to a lack of stimulation. Children do not take part in creative and imaginative activities with adequate interaction to extend their learning and development, for example, by following the Birth to three matters framework.

Children enjoy a warm and close relationship with the childminder. As a result, they feel secure.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are assured of having equal access to all that is available in the childminder's home. They have access to a variety of resources that is age and developmentally appropriate.

Children are treated as individuals. They have a routine that is familiar to them and experience continuity of care because the childminder shares relevant information with parents on daily basis. This is done in writing in children's message books and verbally at the beginning or end of the day.

The childminder is not currently looking after children with special needs. However she has a positive attitude to their care.

There is a policy and procedure on the management of children's behaviour and house rules which is shared with parents. However, the childminder sometimes does not manage behaviour positively, for example, during periods when the children are running around in the home because of lack of meaningful interaction.

Partnership with parents is sound. The childminder has established effective communications with parents both verbal and written. For example, she writes a record of children's daily activities which is shared and discussed with parents. She exchanges information with parents about their child's development and progress.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment is organised satisfactorily. The children have sufficient space to move around freely and play with the different activities provided. Children have moderate access to toys and resources.

Relevant documentation regarding the childminding service is organised and kept up to date which contributes to children's general welfare. The childminder ensures that all documentation is shared openly with parents and their contributions are valued. Each child has a file containing the appropriate information, such as, contracts and agreements for emergencies.

However, the childminder gives insufficient attention to the children's daily routine to ensure a good balance in the day for play, rest and sleep. Additionally, aspects of safety in the home and when travelling in a vehicle is compromised. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, including the procedure to follow in the event of a child protection allegation being made when a child is in her care. She demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of child protection and the methods for reporting any concerns to safeguard children. She has relevant documentation and contact numbers in the childminding portfolio for reference.

She agreed to ensure suitable safety arrangements are in place for children when meals are being prepared. This area still remains outstanding because children have easy access to the kitchen when meals are being prepared and at other times.

She agreed to ensure that the organisation of the childminding day includes a balance of interesting and stimulating activities as well as time for children to follow their individual rest, sleep and feeding routines, within the home. Aspects of this area still remain outstanding as children spend a considerable time away from the home in pre-schools and travelling in vehicles.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint relating to two of the National Standards. On the 14/10/2004, concerns were raised regarding National Standards 2 and 12, organisation and partnership with parents. Ofsted carried out an unannounced visit on the 20/10/2004. Evidence gathered during this visit confirmed that the provider continued to meet the National Standards. No evidence was found that the National Standards had been breached. The provider 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.

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- take positive steps to ensure that hazards to children on the premises, in a vehicle, are minimised to promote safety and to prevent accidents.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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