



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY152149
Inspection date	23 May 2006
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool
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 2002. She lives with her family which, includes a daughter aged five years in South Woodford in the London borough of Redbridge. All areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day, and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family have two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is protected because the childminder has effective systems in place for sick or injured children, and maintains a high level of hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of infection. Children play in a clean environment and they follow hygiene practices such as removing of shoes on entry into the house. Younger children are beginning to develop self-care skills as they remove their shoes independently and attempt to put on their coats. The childminder maintains a current first aid certificate. This means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident.

Children are offered healthy, varied and nutritious meals on a daily basis. Meals are planned according to their individual dietary requirements, preferences and tastes. Children are encouraged to eat fresh fruits and taste a variety of vegetables. This helps children to develop healthy eating habits. Younger children know when they are thirsty and will ask for more water. Children rest and sleep according to their needs. Children have access to a range of outdoor play equipment such as a swing, trampoline, wheeled toys and a mini slide, all of which gives them opportunities to develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move freely and independently around the house. They have easy access to two rooms for play, quiet activities and meals. Children are given privacy for when they need to sleep and space is made available for their comfort. With the exception of a few electrical sockets that are accessible to children, all other safety measures are in place and these include fire guards, stair gates and safety locks on low level cupboards. Children are beginning to develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe through the childminder reminding them to pick up toys off the floor to prevent trip hazards. There are clear procedures in place to ensure children are safe when out on trips.

Children have safe and easy access to a wide range of age appropriate toys that are suitable for their age and stage of development. There is a very good range of equipment for the comfort, safety and development of young children. Children are well protected because the childminder understands her responsibilities with regards to child protection issues. She attends courses and follows the guidance to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and confident in their surroundings as they move freely from room to room and make choices for themselves through accessibility of play equipment and the familiar routine in place. Children enjoy their play and show good interests in a range of suitable activities such as small world play equipment and imaginative play. For example, younger children pretend to cook eggs, take a baby doll out for a walk in the buggy and attempt to link

train tracks together. Children's communication skills and language development is well promoted because of the childminder's good questioning technique, responsive approach and her genuine interests in what children say. Younger children are beginning to use mathematical language in their play as they make requests for 'small' and 'big' plates. They are beginning to recognise and name some colours and are attempting to count.

Children's individual needs are taken into consideration when planning meals and activities. All children benefit from care consistent with their home routines, as the childminder takes account of the information provided by parents. Children's progress in their physical, social and intellectual development is regularly monitored and records are kept and shared with parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing well because their individual needs are met through shared verbal and written information between the childminder and parents. The childminder has strong partnership with parents and good systems in place to keep them fully informed about their children's achievements, daily activities and general well-being. Regular informal discussion with parents ensures continuity of care for the children. Younger children in particular, benefit from regular attendance at local toddler groups because they play alongside each other, learn to cooperate together and develop social skills.

Children are helped to value and respect similarities and differences through an adequate range of books and multi-racial dolls. They are becoming aware of their community and wider society through the contact they have with other children in social group settings. The childminder's positive interaction with children and the constant praise and encouragement given to them, help develop their self esteem and they behave well.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and confident because the childminder provides a welcoming and friendly home and allows them freedom to move independently throughout the ground floor area. Children rest, work and play in a well organised environment that meets their individual needs and promotes healthy independence. Space is used to its full potential and includes separate areas for children to sleep, participate in quiet activities and enjoy adventurous and creative play. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder has good understanding of the National Standards and attends training whenever she can. This ensures she is able to provide appropriate care for the children she looks after. The childminder keeps all paperwork that is required for the safe management of children. Information about children's progress and informal discussion with parents ensure continuity of care for the children. Written information about the service, procedures, sample of menus and activities are shared with parents and guide the childminder in her daily practice.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to develop her knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities and child protection issues. The childminder is actively seeking to obtain information on equal opportunities training. She has devised a written procedure on how to promote equality in her care and is continuing to increase the range of resources that reflect positive images of race, gender and disability. The childminder has attended child protection training and knows the procedure to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

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 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 electrical sockets are made inaccessible to children.

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