



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY218695
Inspection date	17 May 2006
Inspector	Sharon Henry
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 first registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and three young children. The family live in a three bedroom bungalow, situated within the London Borough of Waltham Forest, within walking distance of local shops, schools and amenities. Children have access to the whole of the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for up to 3 children and is currently caring for 2 children on a part time basis.

The family have a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children receive a varied, balanced and nutritious diet. The childminder is flexible in the provision of food working in partnership with parents. All meals are home cooked from fresh ingredients and consideration is given to children's preferences when planning menus. Individual dietary needs are adhered to. Children remain well hydrated as drinks are offered frequently throughout the day.

The children actively take part in a well planned routine that positively promotes their personal independence and physical growth. They regularly practise washing their hands and face before and after mealtimes to minimise the spread of germs. Appropriate nappy changing procedures ensure there is little risk of cross contamination, for example, children have their own individual changing towel.

Children enjoy very good opportunities to rest and take part in energetic outdoor pursuits to strengthen their bodies and develop their physical skills. For example, visits to the local park and drop-ins, provided children with daily opportunities to use large equipment, such as slides and swings.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. Each day they walk to and from school and regular trips to the local playground and activity centres are frequent. They also have access to a secure and safe garden area which is suitably equipped with a range of challenging resources, for example, a slide and trampoline, which supports children's balance, control and coordination.

Children's health is further promoted with the effective procedures in place for the administration of medication, this ensures children are given appropriate dosage at the required time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are secure and the childminder supervises all visitors to the home. Effective procedures are in place to ensure children are safe when on outings. The childminder has age and stage appropriate car seats and ensures children are safe by using pushchairs and reins when out walking.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to ensuring children are safe whilst inside and outside the home. This enables children to be able to explore their environment safely whilst enjoying the effective security systems provided for their safe arrival and collection. Effective safety equipment is in place to maximise children's safety, for example smoke alarms and a fire blanket.

Children independently select activities from a suitable range of resources, which are age appropriate and maintained in a good state of repair. The childminder monitors and supervises children closely when accessing all equipment. The childminder has all required procedures and

documents in place to promote children's safety and welfare. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid qualification and has a sound understanding of child protection issues in line with the Safeguarding Children Board

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle easily and feel secure in the childminder's care. Children are confident and at ease in the setting. This is because the childminder structures the day well to ensure that their established care routines are well maintained, as well as providing interesting and stimulating play opportunities. She establishes very good relationships with the children in her care; she talks to them well and encourages them to choose activities and resources. Children receive good support during play activities and the childminder promotes children's vocabulary and language skills through effective interaction. However, she is not familiar with the Birth to Three Framework.

Good relationships are developed between childminder and the children, creating a warm and friendly atmosphere. Children benefit from having opportunities to participate in a range of activities which help to promote their learning in different areas. For example, the garden is regularly used to develop children's physical skills and craft activities are planned to promote children's creative skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the specific needs and stages of the children in her care. This ensures that children are appropriately encouraged and supported in their development. Children can choose freely from a range of resources which help them to develop their independence skills.

Children from all cultures and religions are warmly welcomed into the childminder's home, where they are valued and respected as individuals. Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest such as the library. However, the childminder has a sparse selection of toys and resources which reflect positive images of gender, culture, diversity and disability, therefore this limits children's ability to learn about the wider community. The childminder has had a number of years experience working with children with special needs, this enables her to meet their individual needs and support their overall development.

The childminder uses appropriate techniques for managing children's behaviour, for example, distraction, explanation and praise. This helps children understand right from wrong and to play together harmoniously. Children are given praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements, which contribute to the children becoming confident in what they do. The children are well behaved, happy and settled. The children are confident, independent and use their initiative. They have warm relationships with the childminder and relate well to each other.

The childminder regularly shares daily discussion with all parents and carers. This ensures a good partnership and parents remain well informed about the service provided and their children's activities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children move around the organised environment with ease and feel at home, as a result they are confident in extending their own play and learning. All information is kept in a confidential manner and shared with parents regularly. Documentation is well organised and held securely, ensuring confidentiality for parents and children. Written policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. This ensures children's needs are met and promotes continuity of care.

The childminder provides a safe environment for children. Children are supervised at all times and there are good procedures in place to ensure that only authorised people may collect children. Parental consent for outings and transportation in the car are obtained and recorded and these positively contribute to maintaining children's ongoing safety.

The parents are fully aware of the childminder's service and their child's activities, through the efficiently organised records and documents that are discussed and completed with the parents. The children's needs are clearly identified and well met through this close liaison with the parents. This contributes significantly to continuity in the children's care.

The childminder is fully aware of all the legal requirements, for example, the notifying of Ofsted of any changes, completing of documentation and keeping it for a period of time. She has a good understanding of the National Standards and child development. This contributes to children's overall welfare.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was set actions to attend first aid training, provide a fire blanket and maintain a record of children's attendance.

The childminder has completed first aid training for infants and babies, she has also purchased a fire blanket all of which further promote children safety. Children's arrival and departure times are recorded daily which further promotes children's welfare and wellbeing.

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):

- develop knowledge of child protection issues with regard to reporting concerns.
- ensure children have access to a broad range of resources and activities which reflect diversity.

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