



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY221542
Inspection date	03 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 was registered in 2002. Members of the household include her husband and their four children. The family live in a house in the Highams Park area of the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole of the ground floor area is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for four children under 8 years.

She is currently minding three children under 5 years.

The family have one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a variety of activities and play experiences that enable them to move and exercise their bodies. They use equipment at a local park and regularly walk to groups where they socialise with other children and use wheeled toys, climbing equipment and balls. This allows them to face challenges on the good range of climbing and balancing equipment available to them.

The childminder encourages children to have a healthy and balanced diet and ensures that healthy options are always available such as fruit, vegetables and raisins. She is aware of specific dietary requirements and she liaises appropriately with the parents to ensure that individual dietary needs are met. Children enjoy fresh, homemade food which is nutritional and complies with parental wishes. Drinks are freely available to ensure they do not become thirsty.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows good procedures and practice that contribute to their emotional and physical well-being. They have a very good awareness of healthy practices for their age, which is successfully encouraged through well-organised routines and gentle reminders. For example, they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times, thus avoiding cross infection. This helps children become increasingly independent in their personal care, as they attend to their own basic needs.

The childminder ensures children are well protected from infection, and are well taken care of if they become ill. Arrangements for first-aid and administering medication meet requirements, which successfully protect children's health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children feel very secure in the childminder's warm, welcoming home where the obvious risks have been identified and minimised. Effective safety measures are in place. Clear, detailed risk assessments are regularly made to ensure children's safety is maintained. The emergency evacuation procedures have been thoroughly thought through, however, it has not been practiced with the children, which could compromise children safety.

Children are always closely supervised when they are playing in the garden or using large apparatus. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through the childminder's clear guidance and support.

Space is used constructively and activities are well organised, storage space is generous. The children have regular access to the outdoor play area and enjoy playing outside. They are able to access toys and equipment easily and independently and have access to a good range of age appropriate toys, furniture and equipment to effectively meet their needs. All toys and equipment are maintained in good condition and are checked before and after play.

Children's welfare is promoted through the childminder's sound knowledge of child protection procedures. She is aware of the signs to be alerted to and of the correct procedure to follow. She provides parents with information about her duty of care to all children so that they understand the need for maintaining records about accidents and incidents, and regularly discussing all aspects of the child's care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, settled and engrossed in a good range of activities which supports their development. They are confident in their surroundings, enjoy their time at the childminder's and are eager to participate in all activities. The childminder achieves a good balance between adult and child-led experiences. Toys and equipment are regularly rotated to capture children's interest. Resources are readily accessible and allow children to access opportunities, independently exploring at their own pace and successfully learning through play. They relish this time to fully absorb themselves in enjoyable and stimulating activities, particularly imaginative, creative and exploratory experiences. For example, photographs were shown of children decorating cups and children enjoyed dressing up in a Mexican straw hat and top. Outings are undertaken on most days and include visits to local parks and meeting other childminders. This provides children with opportunities to socialise with a wider group of children.

Good relationships are clearly evident and the children relate well to one another and the childminder. Children spend their time purposefully and interaction is effective and successful in helping children enjoy and achieve. Effective questioning techniques and well pitched challenges extend children's experiences, and build on what they already know.

Children benefit from individual routines that are consistent with experiences at home. They settle well in response to this. The childminder knows the children well and is very sensitive towards their individual needs, providing good provision for both rest and play purposes. Close and caring relationships are evident, which increases the children's sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self and well-being.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave very well and are kind, considerate, polite and well mannered. They share resources well and have a good understanding of right and wrong. The childminder is consistent in her approach to managing behaviour. She has clear boundaries in place for this. Good behaviour is valued and encouraged, with this positive approach contributing to good levels of confidence and self-esteem. Strategies and any incidents are shared with parents and as a result they are kept informed and children receive consistency of care.

The parents have strong partnerships and trusting relationships with the childminder. They have their differing needs taken into account, such as those linked to their work patterns. They are well informed about the provision and their children's progress, for example, each child has

a daily journal which the childminder uses to record information about what they have been doing throughout the day. The childminder seeks parents' views to ensure they are happy with the service. Children take work home with them. This forges a valuable link between home and the childminder's setting.

The childminder's knowledge of equality issues ensures children are valued and respected as individuals. Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest and routine outings to the library and local parks. Through regular visits to childminding groups and local events children experience diversity, however, limited anti-bias equipment in the home minimises their learning.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from good levels of supervision and support, which enables them to feel safe and secure in the childminder's home. Consequently, children are confident to make their own choices when selecting toys and initiating play. Space is organised effectively to ensure children are able to move freely between different play areas and activities.

The childminder uses her time effectively to ensure that she meets the individual needs of all the children in her care, such as time to eat, rest and play. Required adult to child ratios are met and provide good levels of care and supervision. This ensures children are well cared for and supported. This also contributes towards them being secure and confident in their surroundings.

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, 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 meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints 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 emergency evacuation plan is practised with the children.
- enhance the range of resources and activities available to develop children's awareness and understanding of diversity and the wider world.

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