



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY222539
Inspection date	20 April 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. She lives with her two young children in a three bedroom house, within the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under 5 years. The family have two dogs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy very good opportunities to rest and take part in energetic outdoor pursuits to strengthen their bodies and develop their physical skills. Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their health, for example regular opportunities to play in the garden and outings to the park. These enable children to improve their physical skills as they use a variety of equipment such as climbing frames. They benefit from plenty of fresh air through time spent walking or visiting the park on a daily basis.

Within the home there is sufficient space to allow children to move freely and enjoy activities which help them grow and develop.

The childminder encourages children to have a healthy and balanced diet and ensures that healthy options, such as fruit and vegetables, are always available. 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, home made food which is nutritional and complies with parental wishes. Children have access to drinking water at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Space is used constructively and activities are well organised, storage space is generous. Children 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.

Children independently select from a wide range of toys that are clean and in good condition. Children's safety is promoted by the childminder carrying out regular checks on toys and equipment.

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 childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documents in place. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Safeguarding Children board.

Children benefit from a good range of safety measures both inside and outside the home; for example, appropriate safety equipment is in place and a secure outdoor

play area contributes to children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled and benefit from a wide range of interesting activities and play experiences. Children's independence is encouraged and children enjoy individual time and attention each day with the childminder.

Children respond well to the praise and encouragement they receive and interact happily with the childminder, which raises their confidence. Children are self-assured and have good self-esteem, the childminder has a strong understanding of children's developmental needs.

They have free choice when choosing toys and activities, which are rotated to maintain their interest.

Children's stages and abilities are well known to the childminder and she ensures that activities offered are achievable by the children with different learning levels. This makes children feel a sense of achievement no matter what their age.

The childminder has recently started to use the Birth to three matters framework to plan for and monitor the younger children's development, she is not yet doing this with confidence. However she understands that by using the framework, the care and learning for younger children will be enhanced.

Children socialise with other children at groups and their day is balanced to allow the children energetic exercise and times to rest throughout the day. Children learn, develop and compound new skills, such pencil control, through planned and spontaneous activities, both in the home and when visiting local groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Children make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do and choosing activities. They have time to relax as well as be active and become self assured in selecting and making choices.

The children are confident, independent and use their initiative. They have warm relationships with the childminder and relate well to each other. Children are able to access resources that promote a positive view of the wider world, for example multi cultural books, puzzles, dolls and cooking utensils. This helps children develop an understanding of different lifestyles and cultures. However there is limited resources with regard to disability.

The childminder uses appropriate techniques for managing children's behaviour. This helps children understand right from wrong and to play together harmoniously. Children are given praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements,

which contributes to the children becoming confident in what they do.

Children develop a sense of belonging through the effective partnership between their parents and the childminder. Parents receive good information about the service being provided and the care of their child. Written contract outlines expectation and provide a firm foundation for both parties. Details records of the children's development ensures parents are kept informed of their child's developmental progress.

Children are cared for in the homely environment. They appreciate the childminder's reliable and flexible approach to childminding. Children's needs are met through effective communication between the childminder and parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children move around the organised environment with ease and feel at home, which is a result of the fact that 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.

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.

Parents are kept well informed about the service offered to their child, promoting their welfare and activities, for example correct completing of registers, accident forms, medication forms and key information book

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to obtain written permission for the administration of medication and emergency treatment. The children now has effective procedures in place for the administration of medication and the seeking of emergency treatment, with parents required to give written consent. This further promotes children's health.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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

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):

- obtain up to date contact details of the local authority child protection team.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk