



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY311542 |
| Inspection date | 03 April 2006 |
| Inspector | Sharon Henry |

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| 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 satisfactory. 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 2005. She lives in the Walthamstow area of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, within walking distance of local shops and schools. She is registered to provide care for three children under five years old.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and children have access to a secure outdoor area.

At the time of the inspection, there was one child on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children begin to understand the benefit of a healthy diet as the childminder has a good understanding of children's individual dietary needs. At snack and meal times, children are encouraged to make healthy choices. For example, the children are offered a range of fruits for dessert. Sugar-free drinks and water are always available and contribute to children's understanding of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children are given a varied and healthy diet, this contributes to their good health.

Children's health is promoted through effective procedures and routines. Health and hygiene matters are given good emphasis, for example, children have their own changing mats and individual utensils. The daily routine ensures the home is well maintained and children learn about basic self-care in practical ways. There are clear procedures to protect children from illness or infection. The use of the National Childminding Association documents ensures all accidents and administering of medication are appropriately recorded.

Children's physical development is generally well supported with walks to the local school and the use of the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a warm and welcoming environment, which enables them to feel settled and comfortable in their surroundings and contributes to them making the smooth transition from their home life. Effective use of space allows children to move freely and play with little disruption.

Children play with a range of toys that are varied, colourful and of good quality. All equipment and furniture is in good condition and is used well to support children's overall development. Children's independence is promoted as they are able to self select resources, this enables them to make choices and create their own learning environment.

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. However, the evacuation procedures have not been practised with the children. Children have access to a secure outdoor area, however, their safety is compromised due to the uneven garden fence.

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. Children's safety is further promoted through the childminder's knowledge and understanding of the local authority's child protection procedures; she is confident in her role, which will ensure that any concerns are dealt with promptly and in line with the local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from a good range of interesting and enjoyable activities both inside and outside the home. Children's emotional and social development is generally supported well with visits to the local park and drop-ins. Children are cared for in an organised setting, where there are consistent daily routines for eating, resting, playing and going out. This helps children feel secure and enjoy their day.

Children receive support during play activities and the childminder promotes children's vocabulary and language skills through effective interaction, which encourages children to respond verbally and with gestures. The childminder's knowledge and understanding of younger children's development is satisfactory, but there is scope to develop this further through the use of the Birth to three matters framework.

Children's creative development is well supported with the aid of a good selection of creative activities. Children are able to experience a varied range of resources, for example, painting, sticking and using chalk.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder generally promotes equality of opportunity. The children are recognised as individuals and the childminder meets their differing needs well. The children are well behaved, happy and settled. They are confident, independent and use their initiative. They have warm relationships with the childminder and relate well to each other. Children are valued, respected and taught to respect each other's differences through acknowledgment and discussions.

Children's awareness of diversity is generally promoted by the childminder, however, the range of resources to support this further is limited. There are no children attending with special needs, however, the childminder has some experience in this area and recognises the importance of liaising appropriately with parents and carers, should a concern arise.

Children are encouraged to learn the difference between right and wrong by the setting of clear rules and boundaries, thereby learning to respect others' wishes. Children's confidence is nurtured through praise and encouragement from the childminder, which enhances their self-esteem. Children are learning to share, take turns and be patient.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to working in partnership with parents. This ensures that the children's individual needs are well catered for and enables parents to play an active role in the care of their child. Information is shared with parents, who receive daily feedback on their child's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

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.

Almost all of the necessary regulatory documentation is in place. It is used effectively, to support the successful organisation of the setting, which has a positive impact on the care of the children. However, children's arrival and departure times are not accurately recorded.

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

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:

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| The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding. |
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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 further the registered person should

take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure the daily attendance record is accurately maintained
- develop knowledge and understanding of caring for children under three: for example by using the Birth to three framework.
- ensure children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.
- ensure garden fencing is made safe.

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