

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY346846
Inspection date	17 July 2007
Inspector	Carol Brown
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 registered in 2006. She works with her husband who is also a registered childminder. They live with three lodgers in the London borough of Enfield. The ground floor of the childminder's home is available to minded children, which consists of the front room, living room/dining/kitchen area, toilet/shower room and a fully enclosed garden. The childminder is available to collect children from the local primary school.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight when working alone and a maximum of eight children when working with her husband. There are currently five children on roll, three of whom attend on a full time basis and two on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic home, where they are beginning to learn about good hygiene and health issues. This is promoted by the childminder's effective daily routines

and the ways in which, she is developing children's awareness. For example, the childminder ensures that toys and play equipment are regularly cleaned and children know to brush their teeth after meals.

Children receive lots of warmth and affection. This supports their emotional well-being and gives them confidence to explore new experiences. They have lots of opportunities to develop their physical skills, either from playing in the childminder's garden or on regular trips to local parks.

Children are well-protected as the childminder has current first aid training and a sound knowledge of the procedures to follow in the event of an accident. Parents are required to give written consent for emergency treatment and the administration of medication and are required to sign accident records. The childminder has obtained comprehensive information in relation to infectious illnesses. This enables the appropriate care and exclusion of children who are unwell in order to protect the health and well-being of others.

Children benefit from a healthy, balanced diet and have access to drinks at all times. Parents are consulted about their children's dietary requirements, including individual preferences. Weekly menus are displayed in the entrance hall and parents are given written information as to their child's food intake. Children enjoy mealtimes as a positive social experience as they sit together at the table. Children are provided with child sized cutlery and are encouraged by the childminder to use it appropriately. Drinks are provided at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where risks are identified and minimised. For example, all kitchen cupboards and drawers are fitted with safety catches. The premises are organised to ensure that comprehensive safety measures are in place. For example, a safety gate is in place to prevent children from accessing the first floor. There is a secure outdoor play area. Children benefit from playing in a very spacious, well-organised environment. This allows them to move around safely and independently. There are effective systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children, this ensures that they are well-protected.

The children have access to a range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. Children are able to choose play materials as they are easily accessible and offer choice. Younger children are able to have an undisturbed rest in the ground floor bedroom. The childminder makes regular visual checks and has set up a video link to ensure the children can be monitored at all times.

Children are well-protected as the childminder has a good understanding of the physical and emotional indicators of abuse and the appropriate action to take to safeguard their welfare. The childminder has developed a written child protection policy, which is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's home. They relate well to each other and have the opportunity to socialise with other children through regular attendance at local drop in groups and trips to the library. The children are becoming competent learners as they are able to make

choices, explore and investigate, problem solve and ask questions. All children spend their time purposefully and are actively engaged and interested in the activities provided.

Children's language and communication skills are supported by the childminder as she is encouraging the use of English, whilst supporting them with their first language. For example, the childminder encourages children to name familiar objects. The childminder is using the Birth to three matters framework to support children to become competent learners.

Children's learning is well-supported through the childminder's considerable understanding of their developmental needs and a commitment implementing the Birth to three matters framework. Children's learning is further supported because the childminder works with parents to establish their child's starting point, this coupled with regular observation ensures that activities are planned to meet individual children's needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a range of resources and play materials, which present positive images of society, however these need to be developed in order to develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider community. Children are respected as individuals and have access to some resources, which reflect their culture and ethnicity, this is helping children to develop a sense of self and world around them.

Children's behaviour is good, this is as a result of the childminder developing consistent methods to manage inappropriate behaviour, which takes into account the child's age, level of understanding and maturity. They are beginning to show consideration and concern for others. For example, the childminder gently reminds them to say sorry if they have hurt another child.

Parents are provided with very comprehensive information relating to the service provided, which includes information relating to methods for managing children's behaviour, child protection procedures and the complaints policy. Children's needs are well met and their daily routines are shared with parents. Parents are regularly consulted as to their children's individual care needs and the services provided by the childminder, thereby ensuring continuity of care and supporting children's learning and development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children feel secure in a well-organised environment. They are confident to make demands on the childminder in the knowledge that their requests will be appropriately met. Parents are given daily verbal and written reports on their children's progress. Policies and procedures are used effectively. Children's care and development is supported through the childminder's commitment to providing a caring, supportive environment and developing her knowledge through further training. The childminder demonstrated a sound understanding of the National Standards and her role and responsibilities in adhering to them. She demonstrated a commitment to increasing her knowledge, through further training in order to continue to provide a good service to children and their families. There are effective systems in place to keep children safe and enable them to make progress.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- continue to develop resources, which present positive images of the wider community

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