

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	119719
Inspection date	11 October 2007
Inspector	Vivienne Rose
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 1993. She lives in Bow in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's is used for childminding and there is

a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools and playgroups to take and collect children. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding three children all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder attends local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local park and places of interest. She is member of her local Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities these include, outdoor play and visits to local parks. Children move freely around the home which is organised clean and well maintained to promote

their good health. Daily opportunities to play in the garden enable children to use equipment such as, a slide and see-saw which contributes to them keeping healthy. Children are aware of when they need to drink and the childminder makes sure that water is readily available. Children's health is protected as there is permission for emergency treatment in place and accidents are recorded effectively and parents sign an acknowledgement. However, the way that accidents are recorded at present does not fully protect their confidentiality.

Children are beginning to understand the importance of healthy eating, when they are offered fruit and yoghurt and toast for snacks. The childminder takes account of the parents' wishes and the children's dietary and religious requirements to support their well-being and choice. Some parents provide meals for the children and the childminder offers a comprehensive menu for others. This menu contains vegetarian meals, curries and spaghetti.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a spacious room which is light and airy and has easy access to the garden for play. Children are able to move around the room freely. They access a satisfactory range of equipment which is stored in boxes at low-level to promote their independence. There are suitable arrangements in place to ensure that the toys are safely maintained for children's safety. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures for example, socket and radiator covers, effective emergency evacuation procedures and a secure outdoor play area.

The childminder has most of the procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Children are protected because the childminder understands the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what to do if she has concerns about a child in her care. However, at present the childminder does not record incidents which occur outside of the childminding home. Children are not fully safeguarded as the childminder lacks knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) local guidance and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children independently choose from a range of resources which are stored in boxes to enable them to reach them easily. They are settled and happy and have good relationships with the childminder who is caring and warm in her approach to them which supports their confidence and well-being. An organisational plan guides the childminder and the children attend various groups and activities throughout the week. These include toddler groups and visits to Victoria Park and a singing and rhyme group. This helps children to develop their understanding of their environment. Children happily help themselves to the construction bricks, railway and wooden stacking toys which help them to learn about shapes and to develop their finer physical skills and control. The childminder interacts well with the children to help them to concentrate and learn, for example, helping them to name the animals and counting the number shapes. The childminder records the children's routines in a daily diary which is shared with parents. Children take part in craft activities for example, sticking with glitter and waste materials. There are fewer opportunities for the children to develop their imagination and ideas thorough role play. Children have the opportunity to mark make with pencils and markers however, these are not organised to their best effect to encourage children to use them. The childminder does not use the 'Birth to three matters' framework in her work with children but has made enquiries about obtaining a copy of the pack.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access a satisfactory range of resources which include positive images in books and dolls. Children are recognised as individuals as the childminder requests their dietary and medical needs. Daily routines are discussed with parents and the childminder works in partnership with them to ensure that there is consistency of care for children for example, sleeping and eating patterns. Children behave well. The childminder has clear expectations of children's behaviour and provides consistent boundaries for children which support their understanding of right and wrong. Children benefit from the childminder's partnership with parents. Policies and procedures are shared with parents to ensure that they are clear about the service that the childminder provides. The childminder offers parents the opportunity to comment on the service she provides by offering an evening once a month when she is available should they wish to discuss and issues with her about their child. The childminder keeps a record of concerns but has yet to update the information she gives to parents on her complaints procedure in line with recent legislation.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are confident in the environment and move around freely. The childminder plans her week to ensure that children have the opportunity to visit groups when they can socialise and meet other children. Most procedures are in place to protect children's welfare and care. Policies and procedures are shared regularly with parents to keep them informed about the service and the child's activities during the day. This contributes towards the continuity of care for children.

However, some procedures are in need of updating in line with current legislation and requirements. Opportunities for the children to access role play and imaginative play resources are limited. The childminder is yet to develop a system to record incidents to fully safeguard children's welfare. The way that accident records are maintained does not ensure the confidentiality of children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the provider has increased her resources for older children. Opportunities for them to develop their social skills are encouraged when they play snakes and ladders and the 'Guess Who' Game. The children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has just updated her first aid qualification. Written policies and procedures now guide the childminder's practice; however some are in need of updating in line with current legislation and requirements to enable parents to be fully informed.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take 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 satisfactory. 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 that policies and procedures are updated in line with new legislation and requirements.
- develop a procedure to ensure that all incidents that occur outside of the childminder's home are recorded to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded
- develop resources and activities further to include regular opportunities for children to develop their imagination and creativity through role play and mark making

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