



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	146933
Inspection date	08 February 2006
Inspector	Caren Carpenter

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since April 1995. She lives in a 3 bedroom house which is located within the London Borough of Barnet, with her husband and 2 children aged 13 and 9 years. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently caring for 3 children under 8 years all on a part time basis.

The areas of the home that are used for childminding are the open plan kitchen/dining room,

family room, a downstairs toilet and two of the bedrooms for rest periods. There is a fully enclosed garden at the back of the premises. The childminder takes and collects from local schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well supported by the childminder who has a secure knowledge of the importance of health and hygiene routines. Children's welfare is promoted as they learn good hygiene practices and are developing self-care skills, as they are encouraged to wash their hands before meal times.

The childminder takes appropriate steps to prevent the spread of infection during nappy changing routine, for example she washes her hands after changing children's nappies and ensures that the changing mat is cleaned thoroughly after each child.

Children enjoy healthy nutritious meals and snacks such as vegetables, rice crackers and fresh fruits which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. Children are developing good physical skills as they have daily opportunities to climb, balance and slide on outdoor play equipment. They enjoy daily exercise outdoors in the fresh air, which promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for well in a warm, welcoming and safe environment. Space is used effectively to create a welcoming environment where children are relaxed. Children explore and move around freely because the childminder has minimised all potential risks and hazards both indoors and outside. Children make choices in safe and secure surroundings. This means that children are developing their independent skills as they safely help themselves to toys and resources.

Children benefit from using suitable and sufficient equipment to support their individual needs such as, a travel cot and a high chair. Children independently select from the wide range of stimulating and age appropriate toys and equipment available to them.

Children are protected from harm because; the childminder has a sound knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the correct procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a secure, warm and loving relationship with the childminder, because

children are happy, content and secure in her care. For example, she spends plenty of quality time talking and responding extremely well to the baby's individual needs.

Children are highly involved in a wide range of stimulating toys and well planned activities which fully support and promote their learning. They enjoy a stimulating routine which includes a wide range of visits to other places of interest. Children are forming very good relationships with childminder and each other and are familiar with everyday routines. She is affectionate, caring, warm and offers lots of praise and encouragement. Children's learning and development are well supported because, the childminder provides lots of learning opportunities for them. They are learning to recognise simple numbers, letters, shapes and colours. They enjoy listening to a wide range of stories and are provided with good opportunities to look at books independently. As a result children are developing good listening and communication skills.

Children benefit from a nurturing, supportive and caring environment which, allows them to enjoy a good range of first-hand experiences. They are developing good self-help skills, as they choose their own toys and resources independently. Children have good opportunities to make progress in all areas of their development because the childminder is aware of each child's stage of development and how this can be extended.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children respond warmly to the childminder's affection. They clearly enjoy the time spent with her and their emotional well-being is met. Children are valued as their individual needs are met by the childminder. They behave well as they are encouraged by the childminder's use of positive praise and discussion. Children are able to take turns and to share. Children are developing confidence and self-esteem as they are given the freedom to explore and experiment during their play. Children are familiar with the routine which helps them to feel secure.

A range of resources reflecting different cultures, gender and disability enable children to gain a positive image and to learn about the world they live in. The childminder understands the importance of helping them to develop a strong identity and feel good about themselves, their family and others.

Children are well cared for as the childminder has a good working relationship with the parents. A daily communication book is used effectively between the childminder and parents to share information about their children's routine and their developmental progress. Parents are provided with quality written information about the service the childminder provides. The hand book includes information about her family, fees and conditions, settling in period, play, mealtimes, policies and procedures. As a result, children receive consistent care.

The childminder has a good understanding of the children's individual needs, this means that children enjoy a flexible routine that allows them good opportunities to play, learn and develop at their own pace. The daily routine ensures that children

have a familiar and consistent environment, which enhances their feeling of security.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are able to feel relaxed and at home in the well-organised environment. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for young children which means their welfare, care and development needs are met very effectively. She is warm and affectionate towards the children who are very happy in her care. The children benefit from the good routine which enables the childminder to provide a high level of support and to maximise the time she spends playing with the children.

The childminder is well-organised, warm and affectionate towards the children who are relaxed and very happy in her care. Children enjoy a variety of outings to the park and pre-school groups where they are able to socialise with other children and widen their play experiences.

Written policies and procedures are put into practice to ensure children are well-cared for. This also supports good working relationships with parents. Children's individual needs are managed well, they enjoy the time they spend with the childminder. The childminder meets 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 continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures; minimise identified risks to children; record all injuries to children and record children's times of arrival and departure. The childminder attended a child protection course and has gained secure knowledge of the local area procedure, as a result children are protected from harm. The childminder has minimised all potential risks and hazard to children as a result, they make choices in safe and secure surroundings.

Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder maintains records of all accidents including times and dates of accidents which is countersigned by parents. The childminder maintains daily attendance register which includes children's arrival and departure times. Therefore children's welfare, care and development are well promoted.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- review and update policies and procedures to further enhance the quality of care and learning for children

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