

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	146980
Inspection date	11 June 2007
Inspector	Roulla Xyrizos
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 1995. He lives and works with his wife who is also a registered childminder. The family live with their three adult children and one younger child who is in full time education. The family live in a house in the London borough of Barnet close to local transport routes and amenities.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The first floor is used for sleeping purposes only. The childminder has a pet budgie which is kept in the office on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of six children. He jointly minds with his wife, and together they may care for a maximum of 11 children at any one time. Currently they are jointly caring for 17 children between them, on a part time and full time basis. This includes children over eight years of age. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice.

The childminder attends local parks and toddler groups on a regular basis, and walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. He is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder actively and effectively promotes the good health of the children because of his very effective procedures. His excellent guidance and adult support enables children to understand about nutrition and keeping healthy. The childminder has a very good knowledge and understanding of the requirements for administering first aid and medication, and both he and his co-childminder take equal responsibility for ensuring that all records are kept appropriately.

Excellent daily routines and explanation help children to understand the importance of good personal hygiene and why they need to wash their hands. The childminder knows and understands how to protect children from infection for example, he washes his hands before and after nappy changing and preparing feeds, uses disposable gloves, and ensures the home is kept clean and hygienic by the sharing of regular daily routines. The childminder has relevant first aid training which ensures that children receive appropriate care if there is an accident.

Children enjoy very healthy eating and snacks and know what food is good for them. By working in partnership with his co minder, the childminder ensures that children have an excellent choice of nutritious and attractively presented meals. This helps children develop good eating habits. The childminder is planning on providing children with a plot in the garden in which to grow their own vegetables which will further extend their learning of healthy eating. The childminder ensures that all relevant information is gathered regarding diet, allergies, medical history and specific cultural and dietary preferences. A choice of fruit, salad and vegetables is provided on a daily basis, and children eagerly talk about 'foods that make you grow' and are keen to give examples from the attractive posters displayed on the kitchen wall.

The childminder has received training in administering invasive feeding for children with disabilities and ensures that all children with disabilities take an active and social part at meal times. Water is provided throughout the day and children help themselves to water via use of their own individual beakers.

Children thoroughly enjoy regular, well planned and challenging physical activities that help keep them in good health and gives them the opportunity take part in physical play, such as playing with a variety of equipment in the rear garden, for example the trampoline, seesaws, tricycles and cars.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a very good range of safety measures and effective emergency evacuation procedures and a secure outdoor play area. The childminder takes responsibility for devising safety procedures and carrying out daily checks and regular risk assessments in each room to ensure that the premises are safe. He checks the premises, toys, garden, fences, smoke alarms daily and ensures that the water is regulated to a safe temperature for the children.

The childminder has ensured that the rear garden is fully enclosed, and the outdoor play equipment is secure and well maintained, ensuring it is suitable for children's use. High levels of supervision and explanation ensure that children can play safely. For example children are

taught to take turns when playing on the trampoline and they know that the reason for this is so that they can avoid injury and stay safe.

The childminder's home is very well organised and spacious and allows children to move around and play safely, independently, in small and large groups, and with confidence. Children are able to access all toys and resources and resources are of good quality, varied and suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.

Children have a good understanding of keeping themselves safe, for example the childminder helps to ensure that children take an active part in regular fire practice drills and the children describe how they must go to the front door whenever the smoke alarm is activated. Smoke alarms are in place in every room of the house.

Children focus and concentrate on activities, and interact well with the childminder and each other.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection issues and awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect but is not aware of Local Safeguarding Children's Board written procedures.

Eating utensils are clean, safe, and appropriate to the ages and developmental stages of the children, although particular care must be taken to ensure that the temperature of food served to children is appropriate, for example the pasta was very hot and was not left to cool before being served to the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder provides exceptional high quality care. His calm and sensitive approach helps children to develop trusting, close and caring relationships with the childminder and each other. Interaction between the childminder and children is very warm and friendly and the childminder ensures that children are given lots of opportunities to socialise, for example by attending toddler groups, playing together in the garden, and attending the local Police Club House activity centre.

The childminder actively engages the children in stimulating and challenging activities and demonstrates an excellent awareness of how to encourage their participation by using effective questioning techniques. The childminder particularly focuses on story time and outdoor play and garden activities for example, bubble blowing machines, trampoline and physical exercise activities. He wants to further enhance children's independence by fitting a low level sink in the garden so that children can wash their hands before entering the home. The childminder has undertaken a variety of training courses, including a Birth to Under Two's course and is planning to undertake Birth to Three training in the near future as he constantly strives to improve on his already excellent practice.

The childminder works in partnership with his co minder in organising and planning a wide range of excellent activities for children and firmly believes that everything children do in their daily lives is an educational exercise. He believes that he has specific skills that he brings to childminding, for example the ability to really get to know the children, what they enjoy, what they think, asking them lots of questions in order to further expand on their participation and development.

Children are happy and eager to join in with all activities and make excellent progress because the childminder is very knowledgeable about individual children's requirements. Children's language and communication skills are extremely well supported because of the high quality adult-child interactions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder values and respects children's individuality and all children are welcome and play a full and active part in the childminder's home. He ensures that home visits are undertaken to children's homes before minding commences, in order to obtain detailed information about individual children, to include their family life, specific needs, cultural, religious, medical requirements and any such information that ensures exceptional quality care. For example, the childminder has detailed information regarding the needs and daily care of children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The childminder ensures that parents have access to his detailed written policies and procedures before the placement begins. Care arrangements are agreed and confirmed through the use of written contracts to ensure continuity of care. The childminder encourages parents to join in and contribute at story time, and to join their children on outings, for example tobogganing during the winter. Parents are also invited to stay with their children as part of the settling in process.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the need to work closely with parents and is confident to approach parents whenever necessary. He takes responsibility for ensuring that the parents notice board contains up to date information on his practice, policies, and local places of interest to children. He is also responsible for taking photos and distributing them to parents and children.

The childminder helps children to learn to accept differences and similarities and the wide range of resources reflect diversity in the community. The childminder ensures that children become aware of their own and other cultures and disabilities via active discussion, enjoyable activities, and through a wide range of resources. The childminder works in close partnership with his co minder, parents and outside agencies in order to ensure that appropriate care is given to children with disabilities. The childminder is extremely gentle and adopts a very calm and caring approach when caring for children with disabilities. He speaks to the children, explaining what he is doing, and the children respond very well. He will always undertake a risk assessment in order to ensure that other children do not pose a safety hazard to children with specific disabilities.

Resources and activities are wide and varied and include dressing up clothes, cultural dolls, cultural food, celebration of religious festivals. The childminder treats children with care, gentleness and respect and manages children's behaviour highly effectively in a calm and constructive manner.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises his time very well and children's care is enhanced because of his good organisational skills. He provides an environment where children develop a good sense of trust and belonging and feel safe and secure. He works very well with his co minder, parents

and carers and outside agencies in order to provide continuity and good quality care for the children.

He takes positive steps to ensure that all areas of the home, both inside and out are safe for the children by undertaking daily checks of the premises, and ensures that all adults living in the home are suitable to be in the proximity of children.

Meals are nutritious, and healthy and children enjoy a choice of culturally diverse food, although the childminder needs to ensure that food served to children is of a suitable and safe temperature.

The childminder has devised comprehensive and detailed records, policies and procedures to promote the safe and efficient management of the provision. However, the childminder does not have a copy of the new Local Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures because they have not been devised by the London borough of Barnet.

He has undertaken a variety of training courses and is committed to ongoing training in order to further improve his practice and to continue to promote children's learning and development. Children benefit from a very well organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident.

The childminder has a very good understanding of the National Standards for Childminding and his responsibility to comply in order to provide a very good standard of care.

Children feel cared for and valued because the childminder supports them very well in their everyday care and play. The childminder ensures that detailed information is obtained about the children in his care and he organises his routine so that housework, cleaning and washing is undertaken at times when the minded children are not on the premises.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, a recommendation was raised: to ensure the arrival and departure times of children are recorded. The childminder clearly records each child's arrival and departure times daily.

Complaints since the last inspection

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

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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 hot food is allowed to cool before serving to children
- obtain a copy of the new Local Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures, when they have been devised by the London borough of Barnet

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