

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY254960
Inspection date	27 November 2007
Inspector	Michele, Karen Beasley

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 2003. She lives with her husband and their school aged child in a flat in Kilburn, London which is within walking distance of local schools, parks and shops. The main areas used for childminding are the lounge and playroom. There is no garden, however the childminder has access to the estate's partly enclosed grass area. She attends toddler groups, playgroups and takes children to the park and library, all within walking distance. The family do not keep pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and currently cares for a child aged three years. On the day of inspection there were no children in attendance. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is very clean and well maintained. The childminder showed a sound knowledge of how to promote children's good health; for example she describes how she talks with children

about the need for good hygiene practices. Children wash their hands before meals and after toileting. Their health is well maintained and written information is obtained from parents regarding children's medical history, allergies and special dietary requirements ensuring their individual needs are fully met. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate and records accidents. However, written permission is not obtained for emergency medical treatment which could compromise children's well being and safety.

Parents can supply their own child's meals however, the childminder has a flexible approach to providing snacks and light meals such as fruit and pasta. In discussion, the childminder shows that she works closely with parents to ensure the children's individual needs are being met and the parents wishes are being respected at all times.

The childminder demonstrated a satisfactory awareness of the importance of promoting opportunities for healthy exercise for children. She organises daily routines so children take part in regular physical activity and benefit from plenty of fresh air and outings to the local park and library.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder places a positive emphasis on safe supervision. Discussion with the childminder suggests that she has taken most appropriate actions to ensure risks in her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely, for example, an evacuation plan and fire blanket are in place and cleaning materials are kept up high in the kitchen. Children have access to a range of toys and play equipment in the designated playroom, which are maintained in a clean and safe condition and support the needs of the children being cared for.

The childminder establishes written permission to go on outings. She verbally demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures and discusses her responsibilities with the parents before the children attend. She would recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and would contact the relevant agencies to safeguard the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder describes in detail the ways in which she plans to encourage children to share their interests, so that a suitable variety of activities is offered to meet their individual needs. She describes that children enjoy playing with playdough and like to paint and draw.

The childminder describes how she encourages children to behave well, by offering lots of praise and being very clear about expectations. She aims to offer a warm and caring environment so that children are happy and secure in her care. She talks about how she encourages children to share, take turns and be considerate to each other's needs. Children are usually busy and contented; they enjoy playing with the toys provided in the play room, supported and warmly encouraged by the childminder.

Play resources are organised to help promote children's free choices, the range available is satisfactory. The childminder is confident in her knowledge of child development and recognises the importance of play in children's learning and enjoyment. She is fully aware of the differing needs of the various age groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Discussion with the childminder suggests that children are very much valued and respected as individuals. The daily routine is flexibly responsive to their individual needs and the childminder takes parents' wishes into account effectively for example, regarding meals. She offers opportunities for children to learn about their local community as they use the park and go on trips to Brighton.

The childminder shows how she responds appropriately to meet the individual needs of the children in her care. Presently the childminder is not minding any children with learning difficulties and or disabilities. Through discussion the childminder was able to demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of her responsibilities. She would be happy to liaise with other agencies and would always work closely with the parents to meet the individual needs of the children. The childminder takes time to get to know the children well and understand their likes and dislikes.

The childminder showed a satisfactory knowledge of behaviour management, giving examples of how she would approach a variety of situations. She places an emphasis on politeness and good manners, encouraging children to behave well by using praise and encouragement. The childminder described how she shares information with the parents verbally at collection time, they talk about how the children have been, what they have been doing and any other things that have happened, helping to keep them informed at all times.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates that she has an organised approach to her childminding role. She shows that she satisfactorily supports children's individual needs, by flexible planning which takes account of their interests. Daily routines are in place but are amended appropriately, to respond to the different needs of the children cared for.

Most required documentation and record keeping systems are in place, available for inspection and stored safely. Children are kept safe within the home by most procedures and their welfare is safeguarded, by the childminder's satisfactory understanding of required policies and procedures. 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

Since the last inspection 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 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 written permission is gained for emergency medical treatment
- ensure full names of the children are recorded in the attendance register.

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