

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY272080
Inspection date	28 February 2008
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2003. She lives with her husband and two children in a two bedroom maisonette, which is located within the London borough of Camden. The living room and a bedroom are available for childminding.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of three children under eight years and is currently caring for two children under eight years.

The childminder takes and collects children from the local school. The childminder takes children to playgroups, drop-ins and local parks. 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's health is well promoted, as the childminder sustains good levels of hygiene throughout her home. They learn about the importance of washing their hands after using the toilet and brushing their teeth after meals.

Records and policies that support children's good health are well maintained. Accident and medicine records are completed appropriately and there is a procedure for children who are unwell. However, parents do not provide written permission for seeking medical emergency treatment. Therefore, children's welfare is not fully promoted. A written sickness policy, which the childminder share with parents, ensures children are well cared for. As a result, children are protected from illness and infection.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. For example, they are offered a selection of fresh fruits, baked potatoes, chicken korma, lasagne, salad, salmon and vegetables. Children recognise when they are thirsty and are offered regular drinks of water.

Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise. Regular outings to parks and toddler groups provide children with good opportunities to promote their overall physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure and settled in their surroundings as they are looked after in a warm, welcoming child focused environment. They are able to explore and move around freely and safely because the childminder has minimised all potential hazards and risks.

Children select toys from safe and accessible boxes. They are familiar with where their favourite toys are and can select them without harming themselves. Children gain independence and a sense of achievement through moving around freely from indoor to outdoor safely. The childminder conducts a daily risk assessment to ensure that children arrive in the morning to a welcoming and safe environment. However, parents have not provided written permission for outings. Therefore children's welfare is not fully promoted.

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 are very happy and secure in the childminder's care. They independently choose from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment which provides good challenges to them. Children benefit from an interesting programme of activities that promotes their learning and development. They have lots of fun as they make choices about what they want to play with, such as, jigsaw puzzles, looking at books, playing with a train set, building and construction, play dough and painting.

Children benefit from the wonderful interaction with the childminder who keeps their interest alive and then withdraws to allow them to explore for themselves. This increases their confidence and independent skills. Children are confident in their relationships with the childminder. Their personal development and self-esteem is promoted through the sensitive and skilled support of the childminder. Children are taken to weekly toddler groups and the library, and enjoy trips to the zoo. This improves their social skills and confidence.

Children benefit from a nurturing, supportive and caring environment which allows them to enjoy a good range of first-hand experiences. The childminder liaises very well with parents to ensure that they experience continuity of care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the children's individual needs. Children clearly enjoy the time spent with the childminder. They are content and show a sense of belonging. They are familiar with the routines and have developed trusting and friendly relationships with the childminder. Children are encouraged to be independent and are well looked after by the childminder, as a result, they are happy, content and secure.

Children are beginning to learn about other people. They are developing positive images of themselves and others as they play with toys and resources, such as, dolls, books and puzzles. The childminder raises their awareness of cultures and differences and varying needs. Children's understanding about the wider world is extended by regular outings to local play groups.

The childminder provides consistent boundaries and offers lots of praise and encouragement when children do something well. They respond well to the childminder's clear and simple rules for acceptable behaviour. As a result, children are happy and well behaved.

Children are very happy and content because parents share information about their children's individual needs, interests and experiences with the childminder. The childminder discusses children's individual needs carefully with parents so that she can settle them and avoids disrupting familiar routines and comforts.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare, care and development needs are met well, as the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for young children. She is warm and affectionate towards the children who are relaxed and happy in her care.

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. They enjoy outings to the park and playgroups where they are able to socialise with other children and widen their play experiences.

Records, written policies and procedures are put into practice to ensure children are well cared for. This also supports good working relationships with parents. However, written permissions from parents for seeking medical emergency treatment and for local trips are not in place. Therefore, children's welfare is not fully promoted. 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 provide children with opportunities to access play materials and books that promote awareness of different cultures and disability. Children gain a positive self-image of themselves and others because the childminder provides a selection of toys and resources that help them learn about similarities and differences.

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 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):

- ensure that parents provide written permission for seeking medical emergency treatment and for local outings.

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