

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY274661
Inspection date	11 February 2008
Inspector	Jennifer Liverpool

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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, two children aged 10 and eight years and a 13 year old foster child in the Haggston area within the London borough of Hackney. The sitting room and the dining area of the childminder's flat are used for childminding purposes.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and there are currently five children under five years on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is compromised because the childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate, which means that children can be at risk of not receiving appropriate care in the event of sustaining minor injuries. Whilst the first aid box contains a number of items, there

are currently no plasters to protect small wounds and cuts. Overall, the arrangements for first aid are inefficient.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment. The childminder is clear about the procedures for reducing the risks of cross infection and germs as children are encouraged to wash their hands before meals, after using the toilet and when coming in from outdoors. In addition to this, infectious children are not allowed to attend and gloves are worn when dealing with bodily fluids.

Children's dietary requirements are known and met as the childminder caters for their individual needs. They are offered freshly cooked meals daily. Children enjoy eating spaghetti Bolognese with salad and crusty rolls. The childminder ensures that children are provided with drinking water throughout the day. Children have regular access to fresh air and physical activities when walking to and from the toddler group and schools; they also have direct access to a communal area and visit the library and local parks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children's safety is compromised because the childminder has failed to notify Ofsted of changes to persons living on the premises, which impacts on the care of the children. The childminder is caring for more children than she is registered to care for, amounting to a total of four to five children under the age of five years at any one time. Whilst there are other adults in the household, neither of them is known to the Ofsted as childminding assistants, which means that adults given unsupervised access to children have not been fully checked.

The childminder is inconsistent in her approach to promoting children's safety. For example, stair gates restrict children's access to parts of the house, and toxic substances, flexes and electrical sockets are made inaccessible to children. Also, there are written procedures in the event that children get lost on trips or uncollected at the end of the day. However, parents are not asked for their written permission for children to go out on trips or to be taken out by another adult.

Children have sufficient space for work and play and they are kept secure as the main door handle is out of their reach. The playroom is organised in a way which allows children to have easy access to toys and a range of soft furnishing is available for rest and quiet activities. On the whole, children have a suitable range and variety of toys that are developmentally and age appropriate. The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled and comfortable. This is because the childminder is warm, caring and positively interacts with children, enabling them to feel reassured. The day is organised so that children can have opportunities for active play, relaxation, group activities and trips. This provides them with a balanced day. Children relate well to each other and have opportunities to participate in group play both indoors and when visiting toddler groups. Children develop social skills, such as turn taking and sharing, when they eat together at meal times and participate in group activities, such as story time sessions.

Children's language skills are well encouraged as the childminder talks to children and asks them questions about their time spent at school and what they enjoy doing at the toddler group. Children are introduced to numbers, alphabet letters and colours when using books, playing with puzzles, listening to story tapes and through general discussions. Children have opportunities to develop their creative skills when being supported to bake cakes, participate in sponge painting activities and colouring picture books. Children benefit from visiting community provisions, such as toddler groups, library story sessions and local parks. This helps to promote their social, physical and intellectual development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs, interests and preferences are generally known because the childminder obtains most relevant details from parents prior to children's admission. However, not all consents have been obtained from parents. The childminder observes and monitors children's development and keeps a record of their routine care, which she shares with parents. Parents are kept informed of the procedures for their child's care as copies of policies, such as behaviour management, sick children, equal opportunities, lost children and child protection, are made available to them.

Children come from a range of backgrounds and they are treated as individuals and with equal concern. The childminder has a positive attitude to supporting children in developing an understanding of similarities, differences and diversity. The childminder acknowledges children's different abilities and provides a range of opportunities for all children to participate in indoor and outdoor activities. Cultural foods are offered and positive images of diversity are reflected in puzzles, dolls and a few books. Children's behaviour is managed positively through discussion, explanation and gentle reminders that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. They benefit from the praise and encouragement they receive.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder has insufficient knowledge of the requirements of the National Standards and failed to comply with the conditions of registration. All of which compromises children's safety and does not support their welfare. The childminder is in breach of a number of regulations. The childminder is caring for a total of four to five children on two days of the week when she is not registered to do so. She has employed an assistant without informing Ofsted of an adult working on the premises who is given unsupervised access to children. Consequently, not all relevant suitability checks have been made. In addition, the childminder has not informed Ofsted of any other children under eight years that she regularly cares for, including her own. Overall, children are at risk of not receiving sufficient and appropriate care. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder knows the children well and organises the day to support children's individual needs. A range of opportunities and experiences is provided to promote children's development and early learning. The childminder has procedures in place for reducing the risks of the spread of germs or infection; however, she does not hold a valid first aid certificate, as this expired in 2006. There is a system in place for keeping a record of attendance; however not all children's attendance details are included. This means that in the event of the need to check historical records children will not be fully protected. Although required records and written procedures

for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm are in place, they are taken out on trips and being left alone in the care of an adult without obtaining written consent from their parents. The childminder lacks awareness of her responsibilities with regards to the National Standards, which impacts on the quality of care provided.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide a suitable range of toys and activities to meet the developmental needs of children aged under eight years and ensure that these promote anti-discriminatory practice.

The childminder now provides a suitable range of toys that appeal to children of different ages and abilities. She has developed the range of toys and equipment to reflect positive images of some aspects of society, mainly race and culture. Children also gain an understanding of diversity when being offered opportunities to eat and share cultural foods and see artefacts from different countries. This encourages children to develop a positive attitude towards diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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:

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- maintain the conditions of registration including the numbers of children registered to care for at all times
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- assess the risks to children in relation to outings and take action to minimise these
- keep an accurate daily attendance record on all children
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters, namely the changes to household members and persons working on the premises.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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