



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY286531
Inspection date	24 October 2005
Inspector	Marcia Robinson

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 2004. She lives with her partner and two children aged 2 and 6 years. They live in a two bedroom second floor flat in the Chalk Farm area of the London Borough of Camden. The premises are close to all public transport links. There are no family pets.

The main areas used for childminding are the living room, children's bedroom and separate bathroom and toilet.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time

and currently has one child on roll.

The childminder takes children out to local parks and playgroups. She has the Cache level 3 certificate in childminding practice. She has completed first aid and child protection.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy in the warm and clean environment. Children's good health is well promoted as the childminder takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection. For example, as part of the daily routine children are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet, outdoor play and before meals. Children are protected from unnecessary illness, as they do not attend if they have an infection or feel unwell.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They are offered a choice of nutritious balanced meals and healthy snacks, including fresh fruit, fish, pasta, meat and yogurts which the childminder provides in agreement with their parents. These take into account special dietary requirements to ensure children remain healthy.

Children's physical development is actively promoted by the childminder who takes children out everyday to local parks, playgroups or the farm.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and learn in a secure environment . The childminder has created well organised space to allow children to move around freely and play comfortably with toys. Children benefit from two play areas which have been appropriately adapted to meet their needs. They have easy and safe access to play resources and equipment that are age appropriate and of good quality.

Children are cared for in a well maintained home where they mainly play safely indoors and when on outings as the childminder closely supervises children. However, accessible trailing wiring in the main play area needs to be secured to ensure children's safety at all times.

Children's welfare is adequately safeguarded. The childminder has recently completed child protection training and has some knowledge and understanding but she does not have a copy of the local Area Child Protection Procedures and contact numbers to ensure children's welfare is completely safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates an appropriate understanding of how children learn and develop and translates this into sound childcare practice. Children are settled and share a warm and affectionate relationship with the childminder. Children's development is adequately promoted through positive interaction and a range of stimulating activities provided to promote their development. For example, younger children are learning to talk as their language is encouraged by the childminder questioning and naming as she plays with the children.

Children benefit from daily outings to local playgroups, parks and places of interest such as the farm where children can see and learn about nature and animals. Children's creativity is encouraged through drawing, painting and play dough. Their understanding of number and counting is encouraged through toys and practical activities when going up and down the stairs.

Children participate in a good balance and stimulating range of activities when the childminder takes them to the playgroup. However, opportunities to extend younger children's knowledge and experiences, needs to be furthered for example, by using the Birth to three framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people through visits to the playgroup where they learn to socialise with children from other backgrounds. They have access to resources that reflect positive images of diversity in a very good range of books, dolls, toys and puzzles.

Children's behaviour is managed well by the childminder who uses a variety of appropriate strategies depending on the child's age and understanding. Children's confidence and self-esteem is fully promoted by the childminder who uses positive praise and encouragement to build on children's behaviour.

Generally partnership with parents works well. They communicate daily and exchange information so that children are being provided with consistent care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children's security is safeguarded by the childminder who understands and ensures that all person's in the home are suitably vetted. Children are secure and happy in the care of the childminder. Children enjoy a good balance of lively outdoor play and quieter activities in the childminder's home. Children's independence is promoted by the well organised play areas, where toys are accessible and children are able to choose what they want to play with from a range of good quality resources.

The childminder has the Cache level 3 certificate in childminding practice. Children are generally achieving and developing well as the childminder makes good use of

courses and training to develop her knowledge and understanding of childcare and early years education.

Most policies are shared with parents verbally and generally this works well. Although children's welfare is not being effectively managed as not all required records are kept on the premises and some aspects of documentation lack all the required detail which may impact on the safety and continuity of care for children.

Improvements since the last inspection

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 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):

- develop opportunities to extend younger children's knowledge and experiences, for example by using the Birth to Three Matters framework
- review and develop the written documentation to include seeking written consent from parents for seeking urgent medical treatment and keeping all necessary details in the accident record
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times
- make trailing wires inaccessible to children
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures

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