



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY309780
Inspection date	07 December 2006
Inspector	S Campbell
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 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged four, six and 14 in Ilford, Essex within close proximity to Ilford Town Centre, British Rail and local amenities. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and is currently minding two children under five all day. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends a local toddler group on a regular basis. The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home where they are beginning to learn the importance of good personal hygiene care through their daily routine. The childminder takes positive steps to minimise the spread of infection by encouraging and aiding children with washing their hands before mealtimes. The reduction of cross infection is further promoted because children have separate flannels and there are good procedures in place when changing younger children. There are appropriate systems in place to record accidents and medication given to children. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. This means she can give appropriate care in the event of an accident.

Children's good health is further supported because they regularly engage in outdoor pursuits to the local parks and toddler groups. This contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

Children receive healthy nutritious freshly prepared meals, such as pasta, chicken and vegetables. From an early age this encourages children to develop healthy eating practices. Children are developing good independent skills as they feed themselves and are given choices about what they would like to eat and drink. Children receive plenty of drinks throughout the day to prevent dehydration.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm family like environment. This allows children to have a good sense of belonging. The whole ground floor is used for childminding and they benefit from playing in a spacious well-organised environment that allows them to move around, rest and play safely. Children play in a safe and secure environment because the childminder gives high priority to ensure there are appropriate safety measures in place, such as the use of safety gates and adequate supervision. Children's safety is further promoted because the childminder practises fire drills with children. This ensures children are familiar with the procedures so they learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely. However, fire drills are not documented.

Children have access to good range of toys and resources. Resources are carefully selected by the childminder to ensure they are age and developmentally appropriate. Resources are in a good state of repair and easily accessible by children.

Children's safety is further promoted because the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow should she have a concern. She has implemented a comprehensive policy and this is shared fully with parents. Hence, parents are aware of her responsibility to report any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and well settled in their environment. The childminder encourages children to express their thoughts and feelings. She uses good questioning techniques and repeating children's responses to encourage language development. Children are interested in the activities and benefit from playing group games with the childminder and their peers, for example the posting box. Children happily clap their hands as they post the shapes in the right hole. Children are cared for in a calm relaxed atmosphere where they happily sing along to nursery rhymes, such as 'The Wheels on the Bus'.

Children are happy and are beginning to form positive relationships with the childminder. Children receive a good level of support during the day to support their learning and development. At the end of the day the childminder spends time reading stories to children. Children participate in a good range of art and craft activities, such as junk modelling, pasta and rice sticking.

Children are developing good concentration skills as they play with cars and musical resources. They receive a lot of warmth and affection to support their well-being, for example cuddles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder knows children well and their individual needs are met and programmed into their daily routine, such as rest and play. Children have access to a good range of resources that promote positive images. This helps children understand the wider world and the community which they live in. The childminder works in partnership with parents to obtain key words in children's primary language, Gujarati to ensure communication is maintained. This builds upon children's self esteem and confidence while at the setting.

The childminder has had some experience of caring for children with disabilities and is committed to working in partnership with parents to ensure that their needs are fully understood and met.

Children are well behaved and they are developing positive relationships with their peers. The childminder uses appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour according to the age and stage of development. This helps children understand right from wrong, for example distraction and simple explanations. Children play harmoniously together and are developing their skills in turn taking and sharing.

The childminder has devised an attractive prospectus for parents, which includes information about the childminder, her family and the service that she offers before children are minded for the first time. This enables parents to make an informed choice about the care of their children. However, not all relevant written parental consents have been obtained. Relationships with parents are good. Parents do not receive written information about their child's development and learning. However, regular informal verbal feedback regarding children's play and progress is shared with parents on a regular basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder maintains appropriate records and has compiled a comprehensive file of policies and procedures in relation to the childminding business. Policies and procedures are fully shared with parents. The organisation of the day allows children to receive a good level of support during the day. This ensures children feel secure and confident in their environment.

Children feel at home and at ease within their environment. The childminder uses her time well to spend time with children, and as a result children are steadily making progress. Required documentation is in place, appropriately organised and readily available for inspection. 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 registration 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):

- confirm fire drill procedures are being carried out
- provide parents with written information about their child's learning and development
- obtain parental consent for leaving children with a named childminder in the event of an emergency

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