

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317623
Inspection date	17 July 2008
Inspector	Christine Bonnett

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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband, one young adult and one child aged eight years in Hammersmith, in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The whole ground floor of the flat is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. There are currently no children on roll.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local pre-school groups and is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has a pet cat.

No children on roll

When a provider does not have children on roll at the time of the inspection, inspection judgements are based on evidence gathered from discussions with the provider and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation.

As there are no children on roll, the quality of the provision cannot be judged better than satisfactory because there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's good health is promoted. She ensures that parents are aware of her sickness policy and the period of time a child may be excluded from her care. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has appropriate systems in place to manage accidents and administer medication. The home is very clean and well maintained. This ensures that children playing on the floor would not be exposed to any risk to their health.

The childminder further promotes children's health because she understands the positive impact on them of providing a nutritious and balanced diet that takes account of their individual dietary needs. Sample menus show that she offers home cooked meals that include jacket potatoes, shepherd's pie, fresh fruit and vegetables.

Furthermore, the childminder recognises the importance of physical exercise for growing children, as well as encouraging them to play in the garden she also takes them for regular walks to the local shops.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has taken appropriate steps to ensure children's safety is promoted whilst in her care. She has minimised all potential safety hazards. For example, a stair gate is fitted across the kitchen door to prevent unsupervised access by children. She has also written a procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency and has practised it to ensure children are able to leave the home quickly and safely, should the need arise.

The childminder has a sound understanding of safeguarding children issues. She clearly demonstrates that she would put the welfare of a child first by reporting any concerns about their well-being and has knowledge of the signs a child may exhibit that could indicate they were being harmed. However, she does not have her local authority safeguarding children procedure to follow to ensure concerns are passed on efficiently and effectively to fully ensure the child's well-being.

A good variety of resources and equipment is available for children of different ages and abilities. The lounge is used for play and a selection of appropriate resources is made available for children to access each day. Evidence suggests that effective use of all available space ensures children are comfortable and have room to move around independently. The garden is fully enclosed, secure and well maintained to prevent the risk of harm to children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder recognises the need to provide activities which offer appropriate levels of challenge for children and which are suitable for their age and stage of development. The

variety of play materials she has allows children to make progress in all areas of development, such as, art materials, books and puzzles.

The childminder understands the importance of establishing a consistent routine that children become familiar with to enable them to feel confident and secure in the environment. As well as providing play indoors, the childminder describes how she takes children out each day to the shops and often for a picnic in the local park. She also understands that it is important for children to mix with others and so visits several pre-school groups with them each week.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder understands the importance of treating all children as individuals and with equal concern. She has resources, such as, books, that enable children to learn about diversity within society. She also describes how she introduces children to others cultures, for example, by providing Chinese food.

Although the childminder has no experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, she demonstrates a positive attitude to minding such children. She knows the importance of working with the parents and finding out all about the child's individual needs. However, she is not fully familiar with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the duties it imposes upon service providers to ensure the best possible outcome for the child.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of behaviour management. She has a policy in place that states that age appropriate methods will be used, such as, distracting the child, or discussing the difficulty with them. The childminder talks about the positive impact on children that working in partnership with their parents has. She describes how if the parents are happy, the child will be happy as well. She recognises that it is important to have effective and regular communication with them to ensure they are fully informed about what their children have been doing. She has prepared a 'parent's pack' to give to parents at the start of an arrangement, containing copies of her policies and procedures to make sure they are aware of the service that they and their children will receive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates that she has an organised approach to her childminding role. Daily routines are implemented to provide consistency for children. The use of the available play space has been considered to allow children to explore the toys and equipment in comfort and safety.

Evidence shows that the childminder maintains all the required records to support children's health, safety and welfare. She also understands the need to retain all records when a child leaves her care and parents are made aware of the procedure to follow should they wish to make a complaint.

The childminder has also considered how using local parks and pre-school groups will promote children's care and learning. In addition, her positive attitude to working in partnership with parents suggests that children's emotional well-being will also be promoted. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

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.

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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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- obtain a copy of the local authority safeguarding children procedure to enhance the well-being of children
- gain knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the duties it imposes upon service providers to ensure the needs of all children are met.

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