

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330040
Inspection date	19 June 2007
Inspector	Rufia Uddin
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 has been registered since 2006. She lives with her family including two adult sons, in a house in a residential area of Dagenham, in the London borough of Barking and Dagenham. Their home is within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks and a short drive from two train stations. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom upstairs are used for childminding. There is sufficient space to allow minded children to play and rest. A garden is available for outside play. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends the local childminder group.

There are currently two children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are healthy because the childminder follows good hygiene procedures and promotes a healthy lifestyle. Regular discussions and an established routine enables children to learn about the positive impact on their health as they practice good personal hygiene. First aid arrangements for children are good. The childminder has completed a relevant first aid training course, to ensure her knowledge of first aid procedures is up-to-date and she can deal with an accident appropriately. The dog is regularly wormed and kept hygienically.

Children enjoy and are well nourished by the healthy and nutritious diet the childminder provides, meeting their individual requirements. The menu is rich in fresh fruit and vegetables and includes many home made dishes. Children learn about healthy options and are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices as they are involved in planning their own menu and activities. They are offered drinks of water and juices at regular intervals during the day and know they can ask for more when they are thirsty. Children have daily opportunities to be active and benefit from regular exercise. Children move freely around the environment, walk to and from school and enjoy vigorous physical activities each day in the garden and the local park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure and mostly safe home environment. Space is well organised. Children have ample room to play, a quiet place to rest and a comfortable area to enjoy their meals. Fire safety precautions are satisfactory. The childminder has a suitable emergency evacuation plan in place, although she has not yet practised fire drills with children to help them understand what they should do in an emergency. Part of the garden fence has been blown over and needs to be repaired to safeguard children, although close supervision minimises the impact on the safety.

Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe. They know they must not open the front door and that running inside the house can cause accidents. The childminder makes sure that children are kept safe on outings. They always hold the childminder's hand when out walking and know they must never run in the road. Children's understanding of road safety is promoted well. They discuss potential dangers as they walk to school, and learn to 'stop', 'look' and 'listen' when crossing the road.

Children have access to a good range of toys, books and play resources including puzzles, construction kits, art and craft materials and these are age appropriate and are checked regularly by the childminder to ensure that they remain in good condition.

Children's welfare and wellbeing are safeguarded as the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection recording and reporting procedures. She has completed training in Child protection Awareness and is aware of the different types of abuse recognising possible signs and symptoms that may cause concern. She has an appropriate understanding of the records required to be kept and knows the procedures to follow should she be concerned about a child in her care.

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Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to make choices from a wide range of resources which interest them. They enjoy their time when they return from school as the childminder is sensitive to balancing the school day with relaxation and interesting activities. Children play harmoniously, sharing creative ideas and chatting happily. A varied range of resources are organised so that children are able to access them independently. Children are settled gradually into the childminder's care to make sure that they and their parents get to know her well before the childminding placement begins. Children have warm, affectionate relationships with the childminder and are happy and secure in her care.

Children talk about how things feel e.g. children explain that the sand feels soft and silky. The childminder uses effective questioning to encourage children to think about how things feel and how they compare. Children have opportunities to play with media such as sand and water outside. Children enjoy playing with wet and dry sand, comparing how these different textures feel in contrast. The children match out sock shapes, recognise sizes and patterns and count the number of socks while they are playing with puzzles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the childminder's care because she has a good understanding of their individual needs and home and family circumstances and values them as individuals. They are respected and have appropriate opportunities to learn about themselves and the wider world. Children have access to some play resources designed to develop their understanding of diversity including dolls, books, and small world people. The childminder has some experience and a good understanding of how to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Children are beginning to develop respect for themselves and others which is enhanced through discussions with the childminder, who acts as a positive role-model. Positive behaviour is strongly encouraged and praised by the childminder, which encourages children to understand responsible behaviour and become self disciplined. They learn about right and wrong as they discuss incidents and friendship. Their individual needs are well met as the childminder follows their daily routine as discussed with their parents. Regular discussions with parents ensure that they are soundly informed about the service and children's activities and progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's appropriately managed childminding service. They are happy, settled and confident in her care. The childminder has an understanding of the National Standards for Childminding and her responsibility to comply with these and the conditions of her registration. The childminder has attended all required training courses. She is developing her knowledge and understanding of good childcare practice by attending various relevant training courses. such as "Child protection Awareness", "Birth to three Matters", and "Sensory Play".

Children receive good quality care from the childminder. She is well organised and provides children with a range of play and learning experiences. The childminder uses a range of written records which are organised and generally effective in supporting the childminding business.

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):

- continue to improve existing safety procedures by ensuring that the garden is fully enclosed, practise fire evacuation procedure with children and keep records of drills

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