

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334420
Inspection date	04 May 2007
Inspector	Maria Therese Conroy

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 registered in May 2006. She lives with her two children one of whom is under five and one of whom is a teenager in the Hornsey area of the London borough of Haringey. The ground floor garden, rear lounge, dining and kitchen area of the premises is accessible for childminding purposes.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time and is currently minding two children under five.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder follows good health and hygiene procedures such as washing hands prior to eating and nappy changing procedures. Children are cared for in a clean environment, the areas used by the children are spotless, which helps to protect children from unnecessary germs. Children are well cared for due to the procedures in place for first aid and medication, all of which are shared with parents.

Children are encouraged to eat healthily through nutritious menus such as chicken and salad and pasta with cheese. They are provided with healthy snacks throughout the day for example apples, breadsticks and grapes. Children are developing their social skills through eating together at the table, in suitable age appropriate equipment to allow them to sit and eat comfortably.

Children take part in a variety of activities to promote their physical development for example at toddler group they have the opportunity to use the trampoline, the slide and take part in action rhymes and songs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has taken positive steps to ensure her home is safe for young children to move around and explore freely. The children can access a large play area which incorporates the lounge and the kitchen/dinning area. The childminder has fitted stair gates to ensure that children cannot leave the area unsupervised. For example while the childminder prepares food, she puts the gate across the kitchen/dinning room area, allowing her to supervise them at all times.

The toys and equipment is of good quality and is age appropriate. They are stored at low level to ensure that children can make independent choices and well organised, which allows them to see clearly what is available. Children are provided with the necessary equipment to allow them to sleep, eat and rest comfortably. For example travel cot with individual bedding.

Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder has a clear understanding of her role in relation to child protection and related issues. The 'safe and sound' poster is displayed for parents to see.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, happy and settled in the homely environment. They have formed good relationships with the childminder. Children's independence is promoted as they select their toys from the good selection available at low level. The childminder sits down at the children's level to support them in their play and extend and promote their language skills. For example when children are completing the puzzle, the childminder continually names the object and then asks the child what is it?

Children feel safe and secure as the childminder has daily routines which they are familiar with. The childminder continually chats to them as they are reminded it is lunch time, she explains to them they then have sleep time and after go and pick the childminder's daughter up from school.

Children are having fun as they line up the cars in a line on the sofa; they enjoy completing puzzles and help to tidy away the pieces afterwards. The children are becoming familiar with numbers as the childminder counts the fingers on her gloves with the children, while changing nappies. Children have lots of visual stimulation around the room in which they play for example bright posters with pictures and numbers. Children enjoy listening to music and love to look at books, all of which promotes their verbal skills and language development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

All children are welcomed and valued as individuals. The childminder knows the children's individual needs well and aims to meet those needs by working with the parents. Children's individual interests are considered when putting out the toys. For example the puzzle one of which shows different methods of transport. Children are learning about other cultures and their own, through the use of varied play materials such as a range of dolls of different cultures and dual language books.

Children are well behaved; they are given clear boundaries and positive praise throughout the day from the childminder. For example when a child completes the puzzle, the childminder gives him a big clap, she changes the tone of her voice and excitedly tells the child how clever they are. The child responds with a big smile.

The childminder works in partnership with the parent's to meet their wishes and children's individual needs. A large area of the wall within the kitchen dinning area is devoted to parents information, such as the registration certificate and the first aid certificate which is displayed for them to see. The childminder has all of the required documentation completed with the parents. However as yet she is not fully aware of her responsibilities in relation to dealing with complaints and does not currently have a complaints procedure in place, which is a breach of regulation.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is well organised which allows her to spend quality time with the children in her care, during the hours of childminding. For example, all of the necessary equipment and utensils are set out for children's meals and snack time and some snacks are prepared in advance. The childminder plans her routine to ensure that children have access to a wide variety of play opportunities and chances to socialise with other children.

Documentation is generally well organised, all information relating to parents is easily accessible with the exception of the complaints procedure. Parents are kept fully aware of their child's care with an update at the end of the day keeping them well informed of their child's progress.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

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 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):

- become familiar with the updated regulations in relation to complaints

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