



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY339190
Inspection date	08 March 2007
Inspector	Gulnaz Hassan
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 2006. She lives with her eight year old son. They live in Newington Green in the London borough of Islington. All areas of the two bedroom flat are available for childminding purposes. The childminder is registered to care for two children under eight years and there is currently one child under five years on roll. The childminder is registered to provide overnight care for one child under eight years. The family share their home with a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

children's diet and nutrition needs are very well ensured as the childminder has a very good understanding of healthy eating. For instance, children's food is freshly prepared, wholesome

and balanced. Children's meals and snacks are planned to avoid undue amounts of fat, sugar and unnecessary ingredients such as preservatives, food colourings and additives. Children are offered frequent drinks of water as the children presently being cared for are babies and not yet able to help themselves to water or indicate that they are thirsty. There are good agreements in place to meet children's dietary needs, for instance parents provide formula milk and lunch for children until they are one year old whilst the childminder provides healthy snacks such as rice cakes and chopped up fruit between meals.

Children are cared for in a very clean and hygienic environment where the childminder has good procedures in place to maintain children's health. For instance, the systems for preparing feeds, sterilizing equipment and nappy changing are thorough and ensure that the risk of infection or cross contamination is rare. Although the childminder has discussed and agreed, with parents, actions to take if children are ill or have an accident she has not obtained written permission to seek medical advice or to take children to hospital. This means that children are at risk of not receiving urgent medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is well ensured. The childminder has developed a system of risk assessments for the home which enables her to carry out daily checks, for instance to ensure that safety equipment is secure. The childminder has also developed ingenious methods to adapt her home safely, for instance one door has been converted into a stable door to enable the childminder to maintain good supervision of sleeping children whilst ensuring that the family dog does not gain access to the bedroom. Children are well protected in the event of emergency evacuations as the childminder has considered this event carefully and has good plans available, for example she has a pre-prepared bag by the door and has practised the escape route with children. Children have access to a range of good quality, well maintained and safe play resources and equipment.

Children are adequately protected from the risk of abuse as the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the signs and symptoms of the various areas of child abuse. The childminder is less certain of the procedures to follow, for instance she is not sure about the various authorities she must inform about her concerns or of the actions necessary if there are allegations made about herself or her household.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident, active and curious, for instance they crawl over and pull themselves up to explore my lap top. Children enjoy a wide range of play experiences that support their developmental needs appropriately. The childminder provides children with opportunities to play and learn that are well balanced between planned activities and free play. Children enjoy learning to use activity centres, posting the shapes through the spaces and pushing buttons to see different animals popping up from the secret compartments. Their language development is aided by the childminder as she names shapes and animals and also

by looking at counting and word books together. The young children experience creative activities, such as using paint to make footprints. Children listen to music and songs whilst they play and the baby shows her enjoyment by singing us a beautifully long wailing song. Children enjoy searching through the boxes of play materials, emptying out the boxes and putting the toys back in again is a favourite activity.

Children enjoy visiting local play centres such as 'Zoomeround' where they play in the ball pond and the soft play area. At the stay and play centres in Newington Green children enjoy socializing and playing alongside other children, they take particularly delight in banging the saucepans and utensils together in the home corner. Children visit the nearby park and playground at 'St Judes' where they use the swings and enjoy the fresh air.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's understanding of equal opportunities is adequate, for instance she values and respects different religions and cultures. However, she is not fully informed in all areas of equal opportunities. For instance children do not have sufficient opportunities to learn about diversity and the wider community because resources and play materials that reflect positive images are very limited. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of meeting the needs of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children's behaviour is managed well as the childminder has a good understanding of the developmental stages of children and how this affects their behaviour. The childminder demonstrates to infants that their actions, such as hair pulling or snatching, is not acceptable by gently removing the child's hand, gently stroking the other child and explaining to children about not hurting each other.

Children benefit well from the positive relationships between their parents and the childminder. There is good exchange of information on a daily basis and this supports the care of children and their well being. The childminder supports the needs of the parents well by being flexible in meeting care arrangements that can be subject to change on a weekly basis. Although the childminder has provided parents with some verbal information about making complaints she is not fully aware of the complaints procedure that must be made available to parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a safe and caring environment where the children and the childminder engage well with each other and where children benefit from a well organised and familiar routine. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the National Standards although some areas require updating and more in-depth knowledge, for instance with regard to the complaints and child protection procedures and equal opportunities. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Most of the records and documents required to maintain children's welfare, care and safety, such as consent forms, are available and well maintained. The suitable storage of paperwork

ensures that they remain confidential and private. A range of policies and procedures are available to support the service.

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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures
- ensure that resources and play materials reflect diversity and positive images of the wider community and develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities

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