

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY347060
Inspection date	02 July 2008
Inspector	Debra Davey
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 in 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged 10 and 12 in Greenwich, London. The home is a five bed roomed house. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, children have access to the upstairs bathroom. There is a fully enclosed courtyard garden at the front of the property used for outside play.

The childminder is a qualified Montessori teacher who provides home based Montessori sessions for children. She is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and currently cares for children for two hourly sessions, from 09:30 -11:30 and 12.30 -14.30 during term times. There are 19 children on roll with no more than three children cared for at any one time. Children attend for one or two sessions per week each. Children attending are aged between two and four years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are kept healthy in the setting because the childminder helps them to develop an understanding of good habits. For example, children learn to wash their hands before they have their snack and they automatically use the liquid soap and individual towels, which helps to minimise the risk of infection. The childminder has developed detailed and useful information for parents to ensure that children who are ill do not attend, thereby reducing the risk of cross infection.

Children learn about healthy foods through discussion supported by useful resources such as wooden fruits and vegetables which can be 'cut up' and stuck together. Snack times are presented well because the children help to set out individual placemats, cups and bowls which are colour coded for each child, helping to minimise cross infection. Children enjoy a good range of activities that help them to develop their physical skills, especially hand-eye co-ordination and manipulative skills. They have daily opportunities for music, movement, dance and drama. They experience the outdoor environment in the front garden although, as the childminding is organised to provide sessions, children are not taken out, for example to local parks or groups.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is safe and suitable providing adequate space. It is warm and welcoming to children and the range of resources available are well organised to enable them to explore the environment and move around with ease. Risk assessments are used well to ensure that children are supervised at all times, for example, when using the upstairs bathroom; additional features such as child locks are used for cupboards and drawers in the open plan kitchen area to ensure that hazards are minimised. However, the front door lock is located at a level where a child can reach and able to open the door, thereby presenting a risk to child safety.

Children enjoy an abundant range of toys and play materials that are of high quality and conform to safety standards. Equipment is kept clean and in a good state of repair because it is checked regularly for safety. Arrangements for making children aware that there is an emergency evacuation procedure are sound and follow through into activities such as projects about 'people who help us'. Children are safeguarded well because the childminder has attended recent and relevant training in this area and demonstrates good understanding through her own policies, of what to do should she have concerns that a child is being abused.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the childminder's home and are helped to achieve through an excellent range of planned activities that are designed to be fun and support learning. The environment is calm, which allows children to feel happy and confident as they freely select from a wide range of resources during free play time. Equipment is organised to foster children's independence as they make choices in their learning; they use the Montessori materials with support from the childminder who offers lots of praise and acknowledgement for their efforts. They achieve well because the childminder uses her extensive knowledge to

provide a high quality learning environment. For example, props are used well to help foster children's natural curiosity; children are delighted when they sing a song about 'who is here today' and 'who's special' and are invited to peep into a basket with a mirror in the bottom. They listen and respond when singing favourite songs and rhymes and concentrate exceptionally well when the childminder reads stories, sitting comfortably on her lap and enjoying the close contact.

There is a good balance of adult led and child led activities because the childminder plans group times, circle time and story time as well as free play. As a result, children enjoy a range of experiences, for example, counting and letter matching games which show that they are rapidly developing a wide breadth of skills. Creativity is well fostered through music, dressing up and role play, for instance, to act out the 'three bears' story using a blanket and small figures. Children are encouraged to think and predict what will happen next in the story which helps them learn. They explore arts and science as they help to make cylinder binoculars and use magnifying glasses to look at mini-beasts. They enjoy growing vegetables in pots in the childminder's garden as well as growing cress in egg shells indoors to help them learn about nature. Children's contributions are highly valued with their work attractively displayed around the room as well as photos of activities available for children and parents to admire. Children become engrossed in the activities because the childminder makes excellent use of verbal and non verbal communication, providing clear explanations, support and praise. In this way, children learn to concentrate well and enjoy their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children experience a sense of belonging because the childminder gets to know them well and supports their individual needs. For example, the children attending for whom English is not their first language are supported with key words and phrases that the childminder has learnt. Children show personal confidence and are eager to learn about other cultures and beliefs through stories, discussion and activities. The childminder encourages them to experience the wider world through her resources, including listening to music and reading stories from different cultures. Positive images of gender and disability are also made available to children through a wide range of books, dressing up clothes, dolls and small world figures. Although not currently caring for children with additional needs, the childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties.

Children behave very well in the home because the childminder provides an excellent role model. They have clear boundaries that they understand and are involved in negotiating the house rules such as, 'we speak with indoor voices'. The range of stimulating and well-planned activity ensures that children are busy and contented thereby developing their concentration skills and positive behaviour. Children are able to share and take turns, for example, when using a winch and a basket to balance and weigh materials, because they are excited to learn when the basket will become heavier or lighter.

Partnership with parents is strong because the childminder works closely with parents and carers to ensure that children's needs are met. From the time the child starts, there is a regular flow of information between the childminder and the parents and this is supported by good quality written information about how children learn. Parent questionnaires are also used as part of the childminder's evaluation of the setting. This ensures that parents are well informed and useful information is exchanged to support the care and education of children attending.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's clear sense of purpose which underpins her excellent organisation. All relevant documentation to support the smooth and efficient running of the childminding is in place, including details of children's dates and times of attendance, policy documents, child record forms and a complaints log procedure. All documentation is organised well, stored securely and made available for inspection.

The childminder holds a current certificate of first aid for babies and young children and has attended recent and relevant training in safeguarding. The registration certificate for the setting is displayed along with the childminder's own qualification in Montessori teaching. The childminder shows a commitment to ongoing improvement, for example, she has obtained detailed information relating to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)' displays the information and works within the principles in order to promote positive outcomes for children. Overall, 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 in 2007 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):

- improve security to the front door so that children cannot leave unsupervised.

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