

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY349146
Inspection date 19 May 2008
Inspector Anahita Aderianwalla

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 outstanding. 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. He lives in a semi detached house in the Whetstone area of the London borough of Barnet and works there with his partner, who is also a registered childminder. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. He is a member of the National Childminding Association and is registered with the local childminding network. The childminder and his

co-childminder currently care for five children aged from 14 months to six years old.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder actively and effectively promotes the good health of the children because of his very effective procedures. His excellent guidance and adult support enables children to understand about nutrition and keeping healthy. The childminder has a very good knowledge and understanding of the requirements for administering first aid and medication, and both

he and his co-childminder take equal responsibility for ensuring that all records are kept appropriately.

Children enjoy very healthy eating and snacks and know what food is good for them. By working in partnership with his co-minder, the childminder ensures that children have an excellent choice of nutritious and attractively presented meals. This helps children develop good eating habits. The childminder ensures that all relevant information is gathered regarding diet, allergies, medical history and specific cultural and dietary preferences. A choice of fruits, salad and vegetables is provided on a daily basis, and children eagerly talk about foods and know what food groups they are. The childminder and co-childminder plan very stimulating and games that promotes children's knowledge and understanding of nutritional issues through discussion and activities. The childminder understands the importance of meal times and ensures that all children take an active and social part at meal times. Water is provided throughout the day and children help themselves to water via use of their own individual beakers.

Children thoroughly enjoy regular, well planned and challenging physical activities that help keep them in good health and gives them the opportunity take part in physical play, such as playing with a wide variety of equipment in the rear garden, for example the trampoline, seesaws, tricycles and cars and a tent.

Excellent daily routines and explanation help children to understand the importance of good personal hygiene and why they need to wash their hands. The childminder knows and understands how to protect children from infection for example, he washes his hands before and after nappy changing, uses disposable gloves, and ensures the home is kept clean and hygienic by the sharing of regular daily routines. The childminder has relevant first aid training which ensures that children receive appropriate care if there is an accident.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from a very good range of safety measures and effective emergency evacuation procedures and a secure outdoor play area. The childminder takes responsibility for devising safety procedures and carrying out daily checks and regular risk assessments in each room to ensure that the premises are safe. He thoroughly checks the premises, toys, garden, fences, smoke alarms daily and ensures that the water is regulated to a safe temperature for the children.

The childminder has ensured that the rear garden is fully enclosed, and the outdoor play equipment is secure and well maintained, ensuring it is suitable for children's use. High levels of supervision and explanation ensure that children can play safely. For example, there is a CCTV camera installed in the back garden for additional safety measures for both childminders to see who is at the front door whilst they play in the garden. Children have a very good understanding of keeping themselves safe in an emergency. For example, the childminder helps to ensure that children take an active part in regular fire practice drills and the children understand the procedures to follow in the event of the smoke alarm being activated.

The childminder's home is extremely well organised and spacious and allows children to move around and play safely, independently, and with confidence. Children are able to access all toys and equipment and resources are of good quality, varied and suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.

The childminder has an excellent knowledge of child protection issues and awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and is aware of Local Safeguarding Children's Board written procedures. The childminder is aware of his role and responsibility and has a comprehensive written policy which is shared with all parents so that they are completely aware of procedures he would take to protect children in his care. As a result, children's welfare is fully safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder provides exceptional high quality care. His calm and sensitive approach helps children to develop trusting, close and caring relationships with the childminder and each other. Interaction between the childminder and children is very warm and friendly and the childminder ensures that children are given lots of opportunities to socialise, for example by playing together in the garden, and visiting the local parks. Children focus and concentrate on activities, and interact well with the childminder and co-minder.

The childminder actively engages the children in stimulating and challenging activities and demonstrates an excellent awareness of how to encourage their participation by using effective questioning techniques. The childminder likes to focus on story time and outdoor play and garden activities for example, water play, sand play, trampoline and physical exercise activities.

The childminder works in partnership with his co-minder in organising and planning a wide range of excellent activities for children. He has specific skills that he brings to childminding, for example the ability to really get to know the children, what they enjoy, what they think, asking them lots of questions in order to further expand on their participation and development.

Children are happy and eager to join in with all activities and make excellent progress because the childminder undertakes detailed observations and is very knowledgeable about individual children's requirements. Children's language and communication skills are extremely well supported because of the high quality adult-child interactions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder values and respects children's individuality and all children are welcome and play a full and active part in the childminder's home. The childminder acquires detailed information about individual children, to include their family life, specific needs, cultural, religious, medical requirements and any such information that ensures exceptional quality care. For example, the childminder has detailed information regarding the needs and daily care of children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The childminder ensures that parents have access to his detailed written policies and procedures before the placement begins. Care arrangements are agreed and confirmed through the use of written contracts to ensure continuity of care. Parents are also invited to stay with their children as part of the settling in process. The childminder has an excellent understanding of the need to work closely with parents and is confident to approach parents whenever necessary. He takes responsibility for ensuring that the parent notice board is regularly updated and is also responsible for taking photos and distributing them to parents and children. In addition, he manages a very comprehensive web site that contains up to date information on the practice, policies, and local places of interest to children.

The childminder helps children to experience the value of their own and others culture and religion through topics work, like celebrating festivals. Children participate in a variety of cultural traditions which help them to develop a positive attitude and respect for others and learn to accept differences and similarities. Resources and activities are wide and varied and include dressing up clothes, playing different instruments and trying new cultural cuisine. The childminder treats children with care, gentleness and respect and manages children's behaviour highly effectively in a calm and constructive manner. The childminder is extremely gentle and adopts a very calm and caring approach when caring for children. He speaks to the children, explaining what he is doing, and the children respond very well.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder organises his time very well and children's care is enhanced because of his good organisational skills. He provides an environment where children develop a good sense of trust and belonging and feel safe and secure. He works very well with his co-minder, parents and carers in order to provide continuity and good quality care for the children.

He takes positive steps to ensure that all areas of the home, both inside and out are safe for the children by undertaking daily checks of the premises, and ensures that all adults living in the home are suitable to be in the proximity of children. The childminder has devised comprehensive and detailed records, policies and procedures to promote the safe and efficient management of the provision. The childminder has undertaken a variety of training courses including an NVQ level 3 in child care and is planning to undertake more training in the near future as he constantly strives to improve on his already excellent practice. The childminder has undertaken a variety of training courses, Children benefit from a very well organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Children feel cared for and valued because the childminder supports them very well in their everyday care and play.

The childminder has a very good understanding of the National Standards for Childminding and his responsibility to comply in order to provide a very good standard of care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he 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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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