

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	151465
Inspection date	12 February 2008
Inspector	Beverly Hallett
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 2001. She lives with her mother and two children aged eleven and 13 in the Eltham area of the London Borough of Greenwich. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local library and parks. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family have a pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted because there are good hygiene practices in place within the home. The home and the toys which children use are cleaned regularly, and the childminder has good procedures in place to protect children from infection and ensure they are learning about personal hygiene procedures.

The childminder has written consent and details for medication arrangements, and ensures her paediatric first aid training is up to date. This helps to ensure children's general good health and wellbeing even when they have minor illnesses.

Children's dietary needs are very well met as the childminder provides a very good range of foods and snacks, all of which are based on healthy eating guidelines. She prepares all food from fresh ingredients and menus include chicken casserole, brown rice, hummus and crackers. The childminder also has a relaxed approach to food, and sometimes makes a game out of children's reluctance to eat, as a result, children enjoy food and mealtimes and develop positive attitudes towards eating.

Children have regular outdoor play and walks and have visits to local park areas. They enjoy using large equipment, such as a little tykes climbing frame, swings, and trampoline in the garden. This not only helps children to benefit from the fresh air and exercise, it also helps them to develop control of their bodies, to increase physical skills and gain enjoyment from being in the outdoor environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy independently selecting from a good range of interesting toys and resources to play with. Toys and books are organised to ensure good access and choice and are well maintained to ensure that children have safe use of these resources.

Children experience a warm and welcoming home environment and space is arranged very well to provide them with areas in which to rest, eat and play and independence of choice in where to play.

Children's safety is ensured as the childminder has good procedures in place to minimise risks within the premises and outdoor areas. For example, she supervises children well, has smoke alarms and a fire blanket and ensures that cupboards with any hazardous items are locked. Children are also learning to take care of their own wellbeing, for example, in the summer, they learn about why using sunscreens are important and to stay in the shade on very hot days.

The childminder has sound knowledge of safeguarding children practice, being aware of the types of abuse and indicators. She has completed child protection training and has written information and national guidance on child protection to support this aspect of practice and secure children's welfare. However, some of the wording used as part of the policy does not reflect recent developments in guidance, for example the words, child protection, are now referred to as, safeguarding children. Whilst this does not impact on the outcomes for children, it reflects on the childminder's ability to keep up to date with new early years practice guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well with the childminder who gets to know them well. They interact well with the childminder and benefit from being with an adult who is enthusiastic and attentive to their individual needs. Well planned routines ensure children experience a variety of activities both in the home and when visiting local libraries and clubs. The children cuddle with the childminder, holding a comfort blanket and enjoying the close contact as they share a favourite story.

Children's communication is well supported, as the childminder asks appropriate questions to extend their thought process, such as, "who has reindeer" as they draw pictures of animals. Children are becoming competent learners as the childminder helps them to develop an awareness of the concept of time, explaining the events such as a Christmas, a siblings birthday and then a summer, which make up a year until the child's next birthday.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs and interests are well met because the childminder gets to know them well. and is warm and welcoming in her attitude. A clear equal opportunities policy supports non-discriminatory practice and ensures all children are treated with concern and respect. They are able to gain a good understanding of people in the wider community through trips out to local places and by using books and resources which reflect a range of backgrounds, cultures and outlooks.

Children behave very well and enjoy lots of cuddles and reassurance from the childminder which promotes their positive behaviour. They are learning right from wrong as the childminder has some boundaries and rules in place to encourage this learning. The childminder has explained her methods of working with the children and has established good partnerships with parents as a result. This, together with daily communication regarding activities, further supports the consistent care she is offering and ensures children and parents feel comfortable in the environment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in an environment which is well organised and allows children good space in which to eat, rest and play during their daily routine. Daily activities include regular outings to places where the children can socialise by meeting other children in their play. Children are well supervised and the childminder gives them lots of attention each day. The childminder is well organised because she has thought through her policies and procedures and shares these with children's parents. She keeps up to date with professional matters using the internet, magazines and information from the local support network. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has made good improvements to her practice since the last inspection. She was asked to improve children's safety at the setting by practising the emergency evacuation with the children. Clear records and written procedures show that this is being done.

The childminder was also asked to develop the practices for safeguarding children and she has now put in place a system for recording any existing injuries and shares this with parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- ensure practice and supporting policies are kept up to date with the latest guidelines, in particular as regards safeguarding children

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