

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY268632
Inspection date	07 November 2007
Inspector	Rebecca Hurst
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?

This childminder has been registered since 2003. She lives with her husband and daughter aged eight years. There are no pets.

They live in a first floor conversion flat close to Shortlands Village and railway station, within walking distance of shops, parks and the library. There is on-street parking available. There is a secure entry phone and the front door is accessed by a wide internal staircase.

All areas in the home are used for childminding. There is no outdoor play area. The childminder currently has two children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is available to provide full- and part-time care. She drops and collects children from HighFields School.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are given daily opportunities for physical activities. The childminder ensures when she goes to local parks and on the school run that she walks with the children. This allows the children to gain control of their bodies and to learn the importance of daily exercise. Whilst changing nappies, the childminder sings to the children, which makes the experience a pleasant one and allows the children to feel at ease. However, after changing the nappies the childminder does not always clean the mat afterwards, which leads to cross infection. Children have freshly prepared food every day which consists of fruit and vegetables, this allows the children to thrive. Children have access to water and milk throughout the day, the childminder will ask them if they would like a drink to ensure they are kept fully hydrated. The childminder has detailed accident and incident records which are dated and signed by the parents to ensure the health and welfare of the children are protected. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and has a well stocked first aid kit in the home. The childminder further protects the children's welfare by having permission to seek emergency medical treatment for the children in her care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a well organised child centred home. The childminder is vigilant to ensure all safety measures are in place so the children are able to play safely indoors. The childminder has a detailed fire plan so she is aware of all of the escape routes in case of a fire, this ensures the welfare of the children is paramount. The childminder has a thorough understanding of her responsibilities to protect children in her care from harm and neglect. The childminder has been on relevant training for child protection and is aware of her duties. The children are cared for in an environment that is safe and secure. Entry into the building is through an intercom and the childminder does not open the door unless she knows the person there. This maximises the safety of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder builds close and supportive relationships with the children in her care. Children are secure with their carer; they are settled and benefit from a close caring relationship. The childminder uses age appropriate activities and resources for the children in her care which are guided by their interests and their abilities. Children receive a warm and consistent standard of care from the childminder who has a good awareness of their needs and development. Children have a good choice of resources to choose from when selecting what they would like to do. Children have an array of toys, for example, separate train sets for young and old children, puzzles, books and arts and crafts. The childminder also takes the children to local mother and toddler groups and music sessions. This allows the children to learn social skills and new topics. One child enjoyed a craft activity of making monsters out of felt pieces. The childminder consistently praised the child and asked him questions about the colours and what shapes he wanted to put on the monster. This builds the children's self esteem and their confidence in their choice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Strategies for managing children's behaviour are age appropriate and they focus on positive reinforcement. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement which promotes the children's self esteem, and as a result the children are happy and secure. Parents are well informed about the service the childminder provides through verbal discussions and information the childminder has gathered that would benefit the parents. The childminder completes the daily book for the younger child which ensures parents are kept informed of his day and any milestones he has reached. This builds a concrete relationship that benefits the children. The children participate in festivals from different cultures, such as Chinese new year where the children make lanterns. The childminder also has toys that reflects diversity and people with disabilities. The childminder has an understanding of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The environment is child centred which allows the children to be comfortable and at ease in the childminder's care. Records and documents are well organised and used to support the care of the children. Records are clear and concise and the childminder ensures they are kept up to date; these include a series of written permissions which underpins the childminder's good practice. The childminder ensures her knowledge is kept up to date by attending regular training sessions with Bromley Early Years. This benefits the children as she can pass on her understanding in her care of them. The childminder has a thorough understanding of how to keep the children safe from non vetted visitors and ensures she is kept up to date with any changes in the policies and procedures of looking after children. All of the childminder's paperwork is kept up to date and is meticulously filled out. The childminder ensures she records the children's hours of attendance on a daily basis, and also records their holidays. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to carry out two recommendations. The first was to ensure the fire blanket is fixed to the wall. The fire blanket is now attached to the wall. The second recommendation was to ensure all minded children's details are fully recorded. The childminder has ensured that all of the documentation relating to the care of the children is fully up to date. The childminder ensures she has permissions to seek emergency medical treatment, application of sun cream and to take photos.

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 nappy mat is cleaned after each use

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