



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY307225
Inspection date	06 January 2006
Inspector	Sue Boylan

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 2005. She lives with her partner and 2 children aged 9 and 6 years old in the London Borough of Sutton. All areas of the house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder will take and collect minded children only from her own children's school. She attends local toddler groups and goes to the park.

The childminder is registered to care for 3 children at any one time and is currently minding 1 child on a full-time basis.

The family have a pet cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn about a healthy life style because they have regular opportunities to be outside in the fresh air. They play in a clean environment where they are starting to understand about personal hygiene because they have their own individual towel and toothbrush. However, children are at risk from cross-contamination because they are not encouraged to wash their hands before eating and appropriate hygiene practice is not observed when a child's nappy is changed directly on the carpet or on the childminder's lap.

Children are protected from illness and infection because there is a written policy stating children will not be minded if unwell. The childminder has an up-to-date first aid qualification which ensures children will be treated promptly if they have an accident. The first aid box is fully stocked and the childminder is aware she must record all accidents and injuries, which protects children's health. However, parents have not provided written consent for the childminder to seek emergency medical assistance. This will delay appropriate treatment being given to the child.

Children know when they are thirsty and have access to drinks at all times. The childminder provides a range of nutritious snacks and meals including fruit and vegetables. This helps children understand what food is good for them. The childminder follows babies individual routines for sleeping and eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in the safe, child-orientated environment which allows them to move around freely and independently. The range of toys and resources are in good condition and suitable for the children minded. The childminder gives high priority to ensuring the children are well supervised and has taken effective steps to reduce potential hazards. For example, there is a specially fitted cushion attached to the stone hearth of the fireplace so children will not hurt themselves if they fall against it. Safety precautions such as the fire blanket and smoke alarms reduce the risk to children being exposed to harm from a fire. The childminder has given some thought to a fire evacuation procedure but has not practiced with the children. This means they will not act so quickly in an emergency.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has good knowledge of child protection. She knows who to contact if there are concerns or suspicions that a child is being abused or neglected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children take part in a good variety of activities suitable for their age and stage of development. For example, drawing around hands and feet and building with bricks. The day is well planned allowing children to take part in both active and quiet play. They have good opportunities to socialise with their peer group and like to meet their friends at the toddler and childminder group. Children thrive on the opportunities to extend their physical development and love "bouncing" on the trampoline in the garden and playing football and golf. Children benefit from the warm and caring approach of the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and relaxed with the childminder. They feel able to ask for help with an activity or for a drink and snack. The routine is structured with flexibility so children know what to expect on a daily basis. Children are well behaved because of the good relationship fostered. The childminder's calm approach and use of praise, affection and encouragement builds children's self-esteem. There are good opportunities to experience the local community with trips to places such as the shops, park and farm. However, children only have access to a limited variety of resources reflecting positive images of today's society.

There is good partnership with parents which contributes to children's wellbeing. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress by verbal and written feedback at the end of the day. Effective procedures ensure children are given enough time to feel settled with the childminder, with parents encouraged to stay.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the well organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and at home. Time is well planned to allow children opportunities to rest as well as be active. The childminder has information about the Birth to Three Matters framework and is able to provide appropriate care and stimulation for children under 3 years.

Most of the required records are maintained which contributes to children's safety, health and wellbeing. The childminder has additional written policies and procedures which guide her in the daily practice and parents can be clear about the care offered. There is an effective procedure in place so children will not be left with unvetted people. In the event of an emergency another registered childminder will care for the 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

There are no complaints to report.

The childminder 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):

- ensure there are appropriate nappy changing procedures in place
- ensure good hygiene practice is in place regarding hand washing
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- practice the emergency evacuation procedure

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk