

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY309193
Inspection date	15 August 2007
Inspector	Sarah Morfett
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 three grown up children in Eltham in the London borough of Greenwich. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and the upstairs bathroom and bedroom for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child full time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean and tidy environment because suitable cleaning routines are followed. For example, the childminder keeps floors clean and uses anti-bacterial sprays on all the surfaces. Children learn about sound personal hygiene routines because they are encouraged to wash

their hands regularly. They develop good practices as they are supervised, provided with liquid soap and use their own towel to dry their hands. Therefore, the risk of cross infection is reduced.

There are secure systems in place to record accidents and for the administration of medication. Children who are unwell do not attend; this is reinforced through the recently developed sickness policy. Therefore, by following these procedures the spread of infection is minimised and children's health and welfare are promoted.

Children have an active lifestyle. Each day they walk to the shops or local toddler groups with the childminder. Attendance at these groups means they have access to equipment which challenges them physically, such as large climbing equipment, bikes and slides, by using this apparatus they learn to control their bodies. Children benefit from a healthy diet. Each day the childminder cooks them a meal, which includes meat and fresh vegetables. They tuck into healthy snacks of fruit and take regular drinks as their cups are left within easy reach for them. Therefore, children begin to understand what is good for them through the variety offered.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in safe and secure home. The childminder creates a child friendly environment by displaying age appropriate toys which stimulate and interest them. They move around with confidence and access the toys easily as they are displayed at their level. All resources are in a good state of repair, cleaned regularly and conform to current safety standards. Therefore, children benefit from the good condition of all toys.

The childminder takes positive steps to minimise hazards. For example, she risk assesses the home each day, provides a suitable range of safety equipment and ensures fire equipment such as the fire blanket and smoke alarms are in working order. However, the procedure for evacuation is not fully secure because it has not been discussed or practiced with the children.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of the local child protection procedures. She has developed a basic policy informing parents of her duty of care to their children. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates a suitable understanding of what she would do if she were concerned about a child's well-being. Therefore, children are safeguarded in the childminders care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminders care. Warm relationships are developed with the whole family. There is a reasonable range of toys which are age appropriate and offer the children balance and challenge. For example, they can play with dolls and role play equipment, books, puzzles, activity centres, art and craft materials and sand or water play. These are displayed invitingly for the children to make choices from. They enjoy good interaction with all the family. They are asked questions as they play, for example, when looking at books the childminder points to the pictures asking 'what is....' and 'where is the....' this makes them think and helps to extend their learning. The childminder has a sound understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and develops the activities with this in mind.

Children's needs are met appropriately. Routines are developed over the week so they have a balance of experiences. For example, they have time to play, be physical, socialise, rest and relax. Therefore, children benefit from the security of the familiar patterns.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for as individuals because the childminder records information, for example, their medical needs, dietary requirements, contact details, religion and language. Therefore, they are cared for according to parent's wishes. There is a suitable range of toys which promote diversity such as, books and puzzles. Children take part in festivals and celebrations from other cultures when they attend the local toddler groups. Therefore, children learn about the wider community around them.

Children behave well in the childminders care. They benefit from regular praise and encouragement, for example, they feel valued as they are told well done when they achieve a task. Regular reinforcement of house rules help the children to learn right from wrong. Parents are provided with a recently developed range of policies and procedures which inform them of their children's care. This includes details of the complaints procedure. However, it does not contain current contact details. Parents report they are happy with the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally well-organised environment. Space is utilised appropriately and they show confidence as they move around the home from activity to activity. They receive good support from the childminder as she supervises their play at all times. All adults who live on the premises hold the appropriate clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau. The childminder is positive in developing her knowledge of childcare practice through attending relevant courses.

All paperwork is well-maintained, kept securely, confidentially and ready for inspection. The childminder displays her registration certificate and keeps a record of children's attendance noting arrival and departure times. The childminder has developed a range of policies and procedure which underpins her satisfactory practice. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was set an action because she was not recording children's attendance. She has since implemented a system to record their attendance. Therefore, children welfare is promoted in the childminders care.

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 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):

- implement a procedure to follow in the event of an emergency
- ensure that parents have to current contact details for Ofsted.

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