

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY320948
Inspection date	05 September 2007
Inspector	Lynn Clements
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.

very competently, as they climb onto the safety stool to reach the sink and thoroughly wash their hands after playing outside. Each child has their own towel on decorated child-height pegs; helping to make wash times fun and encouraging good personal independence. The childminder is very careful to ensure hand towels are cleaned regularly to prevent the spread of germs. All health related documentation is in place. In-depth discussions with parents prior to placement ensures children's individual needs are very well met and parental wishes are respected. The childminder has attended relevant first aid training which enables her to care for children appropriately in the event of an accident. There is a clear sick child policy in place which is shared with parents and implemented in practice to prevent the spread of infection.

Children benefit from an extremely well planned nutritious diet. The childminder is careful to discuss dietary requirements with parents prior to placement to ensure individual needs are met. Children are encouraged to try a wide variety of fruits and vegetables from around the world. They explore many different foods and make their own selections from the wide range of healthy choices available. Children touch, smell and taste foods as they help to prepare sandwiches for their lunch or learn how to make healthy ice lollies using fresh fruit puree. Children have access to drinking water at all times, this is monitored by the childminder to ensure they remain properly hydrated to keep them healthy. Meals and snacks are social occasions. The childminder sits with the children talking about the foods they eat, in this way children are able to develop their own knowledge and understanding about healthy eating. The childminder's attention to detail, includes completing relevant food hygiene training and implementing her knowledge in practice to limit cross contamination in the kitchen.

The childminder provides excellent opportunities on a daily basis for children to engage in large physical activities. Children use a wide range of large and small apparatus both in the home and on visits to the local park. During term times daily walks are made to drop older children off at nursery school; the childminder takes this opportunity to help children develop their understanding about exercise being good for you. Organised trips out and about enables children to socialise with people in the neighbourhood and at the local toddler group. All children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder ensures that all hazards both inside and outside are clearly identified, risk assessed and made safe. This provides a very safe and secure environment in which children can explore independently

The childminder has completed child protection training. She has very clear systems in place to ensure children's welfare remains paramount. The childminder has an exceptionally good understanding about the signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and knows how to make referral if she has a concern, to ensure children are safeguarded from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and secure in the childminder's home. The childminder supports them as they play, knowing just when to extend their ideas to develop their games. Children concentrate as they organise their imaginary play, pushing the prams and making pretend meals. They become confident, independent and develop self-esteem. Equipment is stored at their height enabling them to make their own decisions about the games they play or the activities they are interested in. The childminder is positive in her approach and uses plenty of praise and encouragement to boost children's confidence and encourage them to try new activities without fear of failure. Children explore volume and capacity as they fill containers and tip the water onto a water wheel, watching how it moves faster as they tip more water. The childminder introduces other resources, such as a sieve and shows the children how they can make it rain by tipping the water into the sieve and watching it fall through. She introduces new words, for example, scoop, and she encourages them to think about how the water feels on their hands.

Children enjoy playing in the garden, they use wheeled toys with increasing competence and control as they negotiate pathways. The childminder supports their play showing interest and giving them time and attention. She is aware of their individual needs and the activities which interest them as she discusses this with parents prior to placement; she also talks to parents to find out about what their children have done before, such as going to other nurseries or settings, this enables her to understand how the child may settle and how she can support smooth transitions.

Children have first hand experiences to develop curiosity as learners, they make trips to the local park and play-group when they meet their neighbours and learn about the world on their door step. The childminder has attended relevant training to support her practice. However, she has not completed training or implemented systems to monitor children under three-years to ensure they are fully supported. The childm

Whilst the childminder is not currently caring for any children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She has plenty of previous experience and good strategies in place to ensure the needs of any child requiring additional support are met. Parents are consulted prior to placement about any special services that may be required in the best interests of the child.

Clear behaviour management techniques are shared with parents and implemented in practice to provide continuity of care. Children develop their understanding about responsible behaviour and boundaries. They are supported by the childminder who is consistent and sensitive in her approach. Plenty of positive praise and encouragement is used to raise their confidence and self-esteem. Children are learning to manage their own behaviour because the childminder discusses issues with them and helps them to find solutions, such as taking turns to play with the police car.

Open communications are a strength of this setting. Two way communication diaries are in place providing parents with an insight into their children's experiences with the childminder. The diaries also provide valuable information for the childminder to assist her in the care of the children. Discussions and settling in procedures provide opportunities for parents to provide baseline information which the childminder can build on and use to support children's progress. A clear written complaints and feedback system is in place to ensure that any issues or concerns relating to the care of the children are identified and addressed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed training over and above that required by legislation. She is committed to continuing her professional development to ensure children attending her setting have the best possible opportunities and fun. She ensures that she is fully aware of the National Standards and relevant documents such as the Foundation Stage. The play space is organised enabling children to play, grow and develop in a safe and secure environment. The childminder has a clear understanding about the importance of criminal record bureau checks to protect children from harm. She ensures ratios are met at all times. Children are never left unsupervised with visitors.

The childminder has devised a range of helpful written policies and procedures. These are shared with parents and implemented in practice to support the smooth running of her setting and provide positive outcomes for children. All documentation required by legislation is in place and regularly reviewed to meet children's changing needs. Overall children's needs are met.

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):

- implement systems in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework to support children under three years.

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