



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	116165
Inspection date	21 March 2006
Inspector	Martha Naa Ahimah Darkwah

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 1990. She lives in semi-detached house with her husband and three adult children in the London Borough of Hounslow. The whole of the ground floor apart from the front room and one bedroom upstairs is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently looking after 5 children under 8 who attend on part time basis.

The family has a pet rabbit who is kept in a hatch in the garden.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local drop in centre for childminders.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well being is fully promoted. They are learning the importance of good hygiene practices and personal care within their daily routine. For example, learning to wash their hands at toilet and meal times.

Children are cared for in a warm clean home. Children are well protected from illness and cross infection because of the childminder's understanding of good hygiene procedures and contagious diseases. There are clear sick child policy and procedures in place, which are shared with parents. Parents sign to agree that they will not to bring their child when unwell. The childminder has very clear understanding of appropriate procedures to follow when a child has an accident or in the case of an emergency. She has a current first aid training for babies and young children and a good back up system to support any emergencies that may occur.

Children enjoy a good range of activities which contribute to their good health and wellbeing. They are developing good physical skills in the garden and at the local park. They regularly engage in indoor and outdoor activities to help them develop control, to strengthen their upper body and to move around independently. For example, the children regularly enjoy fresh air and exercise at the local park where they use equipment such as slide, see-saw and swings in the 5's area and feed the ducks. The children's physical skills and knowledge of the community is well supported through regular attendance at drop-in centres and local parks.

Children are offered drinks regularly throughout the day. Children are well nourished by the healthy foods offered to them, according to each child's particular dietary needs and preferences. For example, they enjoy freshly made nutritious sandwiches with fillings such as cheese and marmite, or potatoes and beans. They also enjoy grapes, strawberries and yoghurts. Children enjoy their meal times because the childminder makes it an important part of their daily routine by creating a very relaxed warm and social atmosphere.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure. They are cared for in a warm and welcoming home. They move around the home freely and independently because the childminder has made very good use of the space in the home. For example, all areas of the home and garden are set out with children's safety in mind. Toys are stored on low-level storage boxes and baskets, making it easier for children to access, to make independent choices of what they want to play with. This promotes independent learning and encourages them to develop their personal interests. Children have

sufficient space to move around freely and comfortably. Furniture and equipment are well arranged to allow them freedom of movement and to provide sufficient space for young children to move around without bumping into furniture.

Children's individual needs are well met because the childminder has a good range of suitable, well maintained resources and equipment.

Children can play freely in a safe environment because the childminder has good procedures in place to minimise risks. Children are secure through the care the childminder takes to ensure they are well supervised at all times. For example, the childminder makes good use of safety equipment such as stair gates, smoke alarms and organises regular fire evacuation drills with the children, recording this in sufficient detail. All sockets have protection against electric shock and socket protectors are in use to prevent accidents to children.

Children's wellbeing is aided by the childminder's vigilance regarding child protection. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She has good awareness of the indicators of abuse and what procedures to follow to safeguard a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of free play activities. They are self assured and content in the warm environment in the childminders home. Children of all ages are involved in and interested in their play. The atmosphere is very relaxed and children are busy interacting with each other, playing very well together. At other times they concentrate on individual activities.

Children are making notable progress because the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child development and how children learn through play. However, children under three have limited opportunities within the range of activities offered to be creative and make connections.

Children are developing language skills because their communication is encouraged by the childminder's regular involvement in their play. She continually talks to the children to increase their vocabulary and asks them questions to extend their thinking around what they are playing with. However, in some respects there are limited opportunities to challenge them sufficiently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for as the childminder has taken time to get to know each child very well. They are well supported to develop a sense of belonging, self esteem and respect for others. All children are treated as individuals in their own right and they enjoy the time they spend with the childminder.

Children have ample opportunities to learn about the differences in society. They are developing a positive self identity and learning about the world they live in. This is promoted as they use resources which reflect positive images of people from different backgrounds, such as books, musical instruments, small world people and puzzles.

The childminder is not currently caring for any children with special needs. However she has a positive attitude to the care of children with special needs.

Children benefit from clear consistent explanations and boundaries. As a result, they are confident and well behaved and the childminder uses praise and encouragement to promote self esteem and reinforce satisfactory behaviour patterns. The childminder offers lots of praise and encouragement as well as laughing and playing with the children when they are busy and engrossed in their activities.

Children benefit greatly from the sound partnership between parents and the childminder. There is a daily exchange of verbal information about the children's routine, activities and care. Parents are given adequate information about the childminder's provision.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's development, welfare and care is promoted well as the childminder remains suitably qualified to work with young children. Children benefit from good levels of supervision and individual attention. Good use is made of the space indoors and outdoors so that children have sufficient room to play safely and independently.

The children have access to a range of activities and play materials in the home, which meet their developmental needs and have opportunities to socialise with other children in drop in centres.

All of the required regulatory paperwork is in place and up to date. This confirms that parents are fully aware of the information that is recorded on their child and ensures that the childminder is aware of children's individual needs to enable her provide suitable care according to their needs.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to obtain written parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice and treatment. Children's well-being in an emergency will be promoted positively by the childminder because she has written parental consent to seek emergency treatment advice when needed. She has secure knowledge and understanding of emergency procedures and has a good back up system to support this procedure.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- increase knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under three, for example by using the Birth to three matters framework

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