



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY284873
Inspection date 21 July 2005
Inspector Beverly Hallett

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 2004. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 3 and 6 in the Belvedere area of the London Borough of Bexley. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Children will have supervised access to the first floor bathroom.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child who attends part time. The childminder is happy to take and collect children to and from local schools.

The house is located within walking distance of parks and other amenities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well nourished and enjoy good quantities of appropriately prepared and suitably nutritious food and drinks throughout the day.

Children are beginning to associate meal times with social occasions as the childminder makes this into a family time where adults and children sit at the table to eat and share conversation. Children's individual dietary needs are appropriately met through discussion between the childminder and parents to agree suitable foods and who will provide this.

Children play in a small but suitably clean indoor environment. They are beginning to develop simple hygiene awareness through occasional reminders about washing hands before eating and after playing outside and simple tasks such as helping to clean and set the table before meals.

Children's individual personal care routines are appropriately respected and their physical good health is well maintained by the use of suitable sun creams and protection when playing outside.

Children enjoy a good variety of rest and play opportunities appropriate to their age. The daily routine and organisation of the home enables them to play outside, rest and choose from activities indoors or out as they wish. Their general health is ensured by the use of very detailed documentation and records.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very suitable and secure indoor and outdoor environment. They play very safely in a suitably clean environment in which the childminder has taken some good precautions to keep children safe, for example, using a soft crash mat at the bottom of the slide. They explore and practice physical skills with confidence and enthusiasm, appropriately supervised by the childminder at all times.

The home is well organised and provides good space to offer children good opportunities to explore and experience a wide range of appropriate activities. Children access a good range of toys which are very clean and in a good state of repair by selecting from those set out by the childminder and helping themselves from those stored in the play area.

Children are sufficiently protected from harm and neglect as the childminder's knowledge of child protection issues is good and essential documents to ensure children's safety are in place.

Children are learning in fun ways to protect themselves for example being aware of how to protect themselves from the harmful rays of the sun and learning safety rules such as not to climb indoors.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children choose enthusiastically from a very good range of toys, both indoors and out, which offer learning opportunities in all areas. They play in the sand, run, climb and slide outdoors and pretend to cook dinner using pots and pans with sand and leaves in the garden. They interact with and respond to the childminder very well, playing games such as "peep-bo", asking for stories, and placing themselves on her lap with confidence and affection.

Children thrive on the attention they receive from the childminder. They are becoming skilled communicators as the childminder talks and listens to them as they chat about what they are doing. The children benefit emotionally from close physical contact as the childminder kneels at the children's level to play with them, joining in with their games and letting them know that she values their company.

Children make connections and begin to understand the world, finding out about their local environment as they play in the sand and water in the garden and venture out into the wider community to visit children's farms, feed the ducks at the local park and explore adventure playgrounds.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very confident and secure within the setting, developing a strong sense of belonging and showing enjoyment in being with a familiar and trusted adult. They interact well with adults and each other and feel emotionally secure because the childminder understands their individual needs well and responds to them warmly, giving them cuddles when they need them. Children feel included and part of the family because the childminder includes them in family occasions such as celebrations and meal times.

Children behave very well in the childminding setting and are developing good social skills because they are involved in discussion about behaving appropriately, sharing and turn-taking. Children are encouraged to develop good self help skills such as feeding and dressing themselves. Children play happily and interact well with the minders own children. Children are developing a positive self-esteem as the childminder talks to them and shows much interest in their welfare and development.

The childminder's close relationship and good partnership with parents supports children's consistency of care, ensuring their individuality is respected and contributing to their positive self-image and self assurance. The childminder talks regularly to the parents about the children's needs and provides very good

information about the childminding service. Weekly diaries are shared with parents on children's activities and progress so that children can have their achievements recognised and valued at home.

Children are developing a good understanding of people's individuality through discussion with the childminder and the positive images of mixed race families which are present in the home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Children play happily in a well thought out, organised environment which encourages all areas of learning. Their individual needs and interests are supported as they are offered a good variety of choice of what to play with from a good range of easily accessible and well organised toys and resources. Children are supported in gaining their full learning potential by a knowledgeable and understanding childminder who combines an awareness of children's learning needs with a well planned, varied and child centred daily routine. Children's safety is supported by essential documentation which is kept in very good order and is very detailed.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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 awareness around equality of opportunity

- increase range of books to provide variety for different age groups

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