



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY312569
Inspection date	25 March 2006
Inspector	Alison Joan Wadley

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 lives in a two bedroom ground floor flat on the Rockingham Estate near to Elephant and Castle. She lives with her two teenage daughters. She also currently works at The Rockingham Pre-School as Manager and cares for children before and after school and during the holidays. She is currently completing a qualification to NVQ3. The childminder is registered to care for three children between the ages of 1 year to 8 years old and there are currently three children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted well, through the childminder's attention to health and hygiene matters. The children learn about keeping healthy through discussions with the childminder and they wash their hands regularly, limiting the spread of infection. They play in an environment which is clean and well organised.

Children are well cared for when they are unwell and their needs monitored by close observation. The childminder works alongside parents and has a secure knowledge of recording and requesting permission for medication when necessary. She appears confident in her care of the children's day to day health.

Children benefit from regular drinks and food in good quantities for their needs and the childminder is aware of promoting healthy and well balanced snacks and meals. She works alongside parents to provide for individual needs, likes and dislikes and encourages the children to try new tastes. Children benefit from food and drink which is properly prepared and nutritious, and which reflects their dietary and religious requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an environment which is safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They benefit from adequate space, particularly in the living room area, which is welcoming and allows them to access a range of activities, such as books, electronic equipment and train sets, which promote their development. Their safety is further maintained through furniture and toys which are in good order and conform to safety standards. For example, the toys which include books, art and craft, puzzles and electronic resources are clean and well organised and the children are able to easily access them in their play.

The childminder uses clear procedures in case of fire and is confident at recording and sharing accident reports with parents if they occur. Children are well supervised and kept safe when on outings and the children know to hold the childminder's hand when crossing the roads.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare through observations and communication with the children and their parents. She has good knowledge and has trained in child protection procedures. She uses local Area Child Protection guidelines well to underpin and support her practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder gets to know the children well, through clear settling in procedures and by observing and talking with the children during their play. As a result, the children are happy and settled at the childminder's home and their individual interests met. They access a good variety of resources with increasing confidence and particularly enjoy the books and train sets set up in the minder's living room. During the inspection, children brought books to the adults to read and talked about their knowledge, for example in naming the trains.

The children benefit from the well planned routine and activities and enjoy visits to local adventure playgrounds and areas of interest to the children. For example, the childminder used one child's interest in trains to visit the local train station. Children's social skills are helped in this way and through regular attention and communication between the childminder, children and their parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder gets to know the children well, by talking and listening to them and their parents. As a result, the children are treated with equal concern in an environment which respects their individuality. Children's increasing awareness of other cultures and ways of living is supported well through resources, such as books, and through discussion with the childminder, for example about festivals. The childminder understands that some children may have special needs. She welcomes children into her home, working alongside parents and outside agencies, to provide a consistent level of support.

Children at the childminder's home are busy and engaged in what they are doing. Behaviour is good as a result and well managed, through the childminder's good use of praise and encouragement for children's good conduct. The childminder encourages good communication between herself and parents, so that children feel comfortable and settled in a home from home environment.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is well organised and provides a clear routine for children's eating, free play and outings. This helps the children to settle and know what to expect. Children are supervised and well cared for in an environment which is safe and well managed. They are increasingly able to initiate their own play and learning, for example, by confidently accessing resources.

The childminder's first aid certificate is out of date. Despite this, she understands and keeps appropriate records, policies and procedures, required for the efficient and safe management of her business and to promote the welfare of children. She regularly shares these with individual children's parents, to ensure communication is open. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- update the first aid certificate.

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