



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	403718
Inspection date	08 March 2007
Inspector	Denys Rasmussen
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?

This childminder lives with her husband and two children, aged 15 and 12 years, in a house in Addiscombe, Croydon. This is within walking distance of parks, schools and shops.

Downstairs of the home and the bathroom upstairs is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She currently has six children on roll aged under three years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder is qualified in first aid and holds written permission from parents to seek emergency medical assistance or treatment, this means accidents are dealt with appropriately.

The children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home where they can play, rest and eat in comfort. Good hygiene procedures are followed such as thorough hand washing, cleaning the nappy changing mat after each use and ensuring children have their own bedding. This helps to prevent cross contamination. The childminder's sick child policy is effective in helping to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder encourages healthy eating by providing a nutritious and balanced diet. She has a sample menu for parents' information and negotiates meal arrangements. Children are offered drinks regularly and have independent access to their beakers which are regularly replenished with water. She tries to ensure children are offered five portions of fruit and vegetables daily and records details about children's dietary requirements and allergies which she complies with to keep them healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The home is organised to make it welcoming to children with resources stored at a low level to enable easy access. Children are able to rest, play and eat in comfort. There is a good variety of play resources and equipment. This is of good quality and appropriate for the age of the minded children. Stair gates are placed to restrict children's access to the stairs and the kitchen door is kept closed to minimise accidental injury. The risk of accidents outside the home is reduced because the childminder is conscientious about ensuring children are safe on outings. For example, she uses a double buggy and reins when children walk. The childminder carries an emergency contact card and has given one to the parents, this ensures children are protected in the event of an emergency. The childminder is aware of her responsibility to the children in her care and has attended training to ensure her knowledge of child protection is up-to-date.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has attended training to increase her knowledge of how to work with children aged under three. She applies this framework when working with her minded children to provide a stimulating environment. The childminder plans weekly activities and there is a consistent routine that fits around the children's individual care needs. The children enjoy participating in craft activities such as making masks and hats. They enjoy performing a puppet show and painting on a roll of wallpaper. The childminder encourages the children to make their own choices about their play and the children play confidently together. Children are happy and settled with good levels of self-esteem because of the childminder's positive and warm interaction. The children benefit from regular outings and attend groups to meet up with other children; this enables them to make friends and play with different children on a regular basis, building their confidence and social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment and she is sensitive to children's individual needs. She is aware that some children have additional needs and is more than willing to take steps to ensure that their needs are met. She takes detailed information

about them to ensure appropriate care is given. Her honest approach helps children develop respect for people's differences. The childminder has a good understanding of child development ensuring her methods of behaviour management are appropriate to the age and understanding of the children. Her good use of praise and encouragement helps build children's self-esteem; this along with realistic boundaries helps children to behave well. Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with their parents. This ensures children settle well and their individual needs are met. Her portfolio informs parents of the service offered and provides photographic evidence of activities children have been involved with. Children experience appropriate care due to effective communication systems. For example, the childminder uses a contact book to relay information about the child's day. Parents are happy with the service provided and made comments such as, 'the childminder is extremely dedicated, she is a kind friendly person with a welcoming home, good stimulation and my child brings home pictures and craft work'.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All required documentation is maintained, however the children's attendance register lacks detail. Nevertheless appropriate policies and procedures work well in practice to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Children's records are kept confidentially. The childminder has a well organised home which she ensures is free from hazards so that children can play safely. The childminder attends relevant training to keep her practice up-to-date. Parents are well informed about their child's progress and the service provided. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder improve fire safety precautions; ensure that children have their own bedding and maintain a record of children's needs. The childminder has installed smoke alarms on every level of the home which has improved fire safety precautions. Information about children's individual needs are recorded and along with good use of the contact book means the childminder is well informed about the children to be able to provide appropriate care. Children have their own bedding which improves standards of hygiene.

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 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):

- improve the attendance register by recording the actual times the children attended.

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