



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY290465
Inspection date 31 August 2005
Inspector Adetokunbo Abudu

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her husband and 3 children aged 2, 13 and 15 years old in a two- bedroom flat in a block of flats in Bermondsey, in the London Borough of Southwark. It is situated close to Southwark Park, Rotherhithe tunnel, Bermondsey and Canada Water tube stations, bus routes and shops. Children are regularly taken to the local park and toddler group.

Childcare takes place in the living room and a bedroom. Local parks and a communal outdoor area are used for supervised outdoor play. The childminder has no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 3 children under 8 years old and is currently caring for 1 child aged 18 months. The childminder is not registered to provide overnight care.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group at Southwark Park and takes children to the local library.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. They sit and eat comfortably as they enjoy sociable meal times with the childminder.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder keeps satisfactory level of hygiene throughout her home. They are developing their self-care skills as they learn about the importance of hand washing before meals and after using the toilet. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they have infectious ailments or unwell. However, there is a need to ensure the accident record is signed by both the parent and the carer.

Children are developing their physical skills as they have daily opportunities to climb, balance and slide on outdoor play equipment. They also enjoy outings to the Southwark Park and local toddler groups where a wider range of physical activities is available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure home environment where sensible precautions have been taken to keep them safe. They play and rest under the watchful eye of the childminder at all times and all sharp or dangerous objects are kept out of reach. Children have sufficient space for play on a clean floor surface. They have a good range of toys that meet their needs at this time and at further stages of their development. Children's toys are kept clean and maintained in good condition.

Children would not suffer abuse or neglect unnoticed because the childminder is well informed about child protection issues. She knows what signs or symptoms could suggest ill-treatment and would take appropriate action without delay. Children's welfare is protected by the childminder's awareness of child protection issues. However there is no written statement on child protection and emergency evacuation procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good relationship with the childminder and they benefit from being warmly welcomed into her home. They have easy access to a selection of toys that are chosen to meet their needs. Children play happily with each other with toys such as cars, noisy toys and soft toys. They are making progress in their speech development in spite of coping with two languages. Children learn new words in play with the childminder and benefit from her clear speech and patient approach. They eagerly draw pictures and make marks with wax crayons and gain self-confidence when their pictures are praised and then kept safe to take home to their parents. Children have frequent outings to local parks where they can run and play on fixed climbing equipment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable, happy and secure as their individual needs are well met. Good information provided by the parents is shared with the childminder about the child's individual routines, feeding, sleeping, likes and dislikes. For example, she works with the parents to ensure a consistent approach is maintained for the baby's eating and sleeping routines. Children receive consistent care as there is a daily exchange of verbal information with the parents. Children are clearly fond of the childminder and turn to her for comfort and play. The childminder is attentive and responsive, for example offering comforting words to the baby whilst drinking, and cuddling the baby gently. As a result the baby is able to go back to sleep.

The childminder understands the importance of helping children to develop a positive identity and feel good about themselves and their family. A small range of suitable resources reflecting differences in culture, gender and disabilities helps children to learn about differences and the world they live in.

Children feel secure in the care of the childminder as she has clear boundaries which are shared with them and she helps them to begin to understand right from wrong. They develop their confidence as the childminder praises their efforts, for example when the baby tries to turn a page in a book the childminder says "well done" the baby smiles. This encourages children to try new activities in a safe and supportive environment.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at ease and benefit from a well organised physical environment and daily routine. They have access to a range of activities in the home which meet their developmental needs and opportunities to socialise at a local parent and toddler group.

The importance of maintaining good record keeping such as equal opportunities, behaviour management policy, child protection statement to keep parents informed about their child's progress is lacking. Some information about children is recorded appropriately. However, some lack the necessary detail, for example, parent's written consent is not obtained to seek emergency medical treatment. The childminder does not refer to the National Standards to clarify issues relating to record keeping which means that written records do not provide full and up to date information.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to reports.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- make sure the accident record is signed by both the parent and the carer
- provide written statement on Child Protection and fire evacuation procedures
- ensure all written records relating to children are fully maintained and parents' written consents obtained

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