



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122807
Inspection date	19 January 2007
Inspector	Patricia Ann Edward
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 1994. She lives with her husband and two children one aged 14 and one adult child, in the London Borough Sutton. The whole ground floor and first floor master and box bedrooms of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the parent toddler group, local library and takes children to the local park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection, as the childminder maintains a hygienic and healthy environment. Children have access to individual towels and have opportunities to brush their teeth on a daily basis after meals. Children's toys are thoroughly cleaned to prevent

cross-infection. The childminder holds an appropriate first aid certificate and has obtained written consent to seek emergency treatment.

Children have planned times for sleep, to ensure they have plentiful rest to promote their healthy growth and development. Children have their own freshly-laundered bedding and face flannels, which reinforces the prevention cross-infection. Hand washing posters and stickers aid children to learn the importance of reducing the risk of passing on germs.

Children's dietary needs are well catered for. They have frequent drinks and eat healthy snacks, such as bananas and tangerines. Children access drinking water freely, enabling them to respond to their body's needs when they recognise they are thirsty. Meal times are sociable occasions and children enjoy a healthy range of home-cooked, nutritious meals such as Spaghetti Bolognese with carrots, rice, peas and chicken, pasta, sauce and vegetables. Younger children's meals are provided by parents which are served at the times parents specified to ensure continuity.

The daily routine is well planned to ensure children have ample time to play in the fresh air and undertake regular exercise. Children play in the garden weather permitting enabling them to run about and move around freely. They enjoy jumping on the trampoline and climb with agility on the large apparatus when at playgroups. Children regularly visit local parks and toddler groups to enable them to extend their physical skills. Children also benefit from trips further a field to Lego land and Godstone farm during the warmer months.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in an organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. They also benefit from easy and safe access to a excellent range of age-appropriate toys and resources to encourage their all round independence and development. The childminder has undertaken a risk assessment and reduced potential hazards to children. For example, she has locks on the lower kitchen cupboard doors, has a stair gate in place on the first floor stairs and covers for electrical sockets. However children have access to the second floor area, which is not used for childminding purposes. The childminder has ensured the outside area is secure and that the garden pond is covered to maintain children's safety. Children's understanding of fire safety is well protected because a fire blanket is wall mounted in the kitchen and smoke alarms are regularly tested. The childminder practices her emergency evacuation procedure with the children and this helps them to understand what to do in the event of an emergency.

The outdoor area is safe for children to enjoy fresh air and to have opportunities to develop large motor skills. Children run around freely and enjoy playing in the open space. The childminder closely supervises the children when playing outside. The childminder teaches them about stranger danger and the importance of not touching dogs if they are not known to them.

The childminder has a very good knowledge of child protection issues and fully understands the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from an excellent selection of resources and experiences. Younger Children are eager, confident and show increasing ability to progress through their developmental stages. The childminder has a outstanding knowledge of the Birth to three framework and implements it into daily activities to further their development. Children's enjoyment is heightened with daily access to the activity kitchen, they role play a variety of situations and enjoy accessing the varied pretend food.

Older children are given time to develop their own ideas and interests. The childminder spends time playing with children and talking with them, helping them to develop and learn. The childminder ensures older children have daily creative activities, which she knows they fully enjoy.

Children spend their time purposefully exploring a wide range of activities; such as, singing, dancing, painting, baking and creative activities. Children have opportunities to mix and socialise with other children and adults. For example, the childminder has excellent links with Wandsworth playgroups.

The childminder is particularly skilled at encouraging language development. She stimulates language through activities such as singing and reading. She responds well to the children by repeating what they say, reinforcing language and ensuring they feel understood. She talks to the children about what they are doing, asks them to recollect past experiences and asks questions to make them think, all of which stimulates children's learning.

She enables the children to have fun because she knows them extremely well and understands their needs. The childminder records what the children can do and what they have achieved daily in their individual scrap books. These are used very well to monitor how the children are progressing.

Children's independence is encouraged by the childminder who is very proactive in ensuring resources are accessible, stored at their level and by promoting the importance of helping to tidy up. Children are happy and secure with high levels of self-esteem and confidence as a result of the childminder's consistent praise and support. Children have developed a very wonderful sense of belonging through the consistent routines and positive relationships they have with the childminder and each other.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy access to an extremely effective range of resources and play opportunities, which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. All of which are part of the integral play resources. They also celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year such; Diwali, Valentines day, Easter, Halloween, Christmas and Mothers day. The childminder also provides a range of cultural meals such as rice and pies and chicken, stir frys and mild curries with rice, which teaches children about the wider world.

Children's individual needs are well met because the childminder is proactive in initiating discussions with parents about allergies, likes and dislikes. This ensures the childminder has an excellent understanding of the individual needs of all children in her care and ensures constancies.

The childminder is strongly committed to inclusion and has completed relevant training in relation to caring for children who may have special needs. She provides an inclusive environment and is aware of the importance of maintaining good links with children's parents and other associated agencies. However she has no experience of caring for a child with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The childminder provides a good role model for children, she is supportive, calm and polite. Praise is given to children freely, ensuring they develop confidence and self-esteem. Children behave very well and are confident, happy and settled in the childminder's home. The childminder has an excellent approach to behaviour management. For example, clear informational policies and simple house rules are available which are fully discussed with parents and children. Children are motivated to help look after and tidy up toys and resources after playing with them.

The childminder has developed excellent professional relationships with children's parents. The childminder works closely with parents, communications are open, trusting and friendly. Highly effective systems are in place to share information about children with parents. For example, daily information dairies are maintained and exchanged with parents. Children's progress and development is also communicated verbally on a daily basis by the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children thrive in a child friendly, loving environment. They are happy, relaxed and very settled, they benefit from being cared for in a well organised home. Children receive appropriate levels of support from the childminder and good relationships have formed.

Children enjoy an extensive range of stimulating and creative resources that promote their development in all areas. Resources are easily accessible and the childminder responds quickly to the children's interests and requests for particular activities. She plans activities such as visits to the park, farms and to parent and toddler groups to offer the children variety.

The childminder has completed an extensive amount of childminding courses and is proactive at developing and updating her skills and knowledge through training opportunities. The majority of documentation is well maintained. Written policies are in place and are available to parents. However prior consent to administer medication is not effectively obtained from parents. The childminder protects the children at all times through close supervision.

Information kept about the children is relevant, stored to maintain confidentiality and promotes their welfare. Regular verbal and written information is shared with parents to ensure continuity of the children's care.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that the childminder update her documentation in regards to medication procedures.

The childminder has revised her documentation to include written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, which ensures children's safety in the event of an accident. However the childminder has not improved procedure by obtaining parents individual consent for each course of medication administered to children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- ensure the second floor is made inaccessible to children.
- obtain parents written consent prior to each course of medication administered to children.

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