



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	110084
Inspection date	07 November 2006
Inspector	Justine George
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 has been registered since 1992. She is currently minding a 10 month old baby, for four mornings a week. She also cares for her two grand children on a part-time basis and a 10 year old before and after school.

The childminder lives in a three bedroom house in Eltham. She is within walking distance of local shops and transport facilities. Children have access to the ground floor area of the home including the living room and hall for play, and the toilet and hand washing facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden which is also used for childminding purposes. One of the bedrooms on the first floor is used for sleep purposes only.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a clean and hygienic environment and steps are in place to minimise the spread of infection. Toys, surfaces and floors are cleaned on a daily basis and waste is suitably disposed of. Children have access to a clean toilet and hand washing facilities, and soap and fresh towels are provided to encourage hand washing. Children are also encouraged to wash their hands after messy play and before eating. As a result, children learn good personal hygiene habits. In the event of a child becoming unwell, parents are contacted and children are excluded from the setting until better. Children are cared for in line with parents wishes as the childminder has knowledge of the required records to be kept when administering medication. Furthermore, good practice of obtaining written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is in place.

Children are fed in line with parents wishes as information is sought about any dietary requirements, or parents bring in food for their child. The childminder ensures suitable storage and preparation of food to ensure children's health. Children benefit as the childminder offers a range of healthy meal and snack options to promote healthy eating. Regular drinks are provided throughout the day.

Children benefit as they have regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They walk to and from school and have access to an enclosed garden in finer weather. Children are also taken to local parks. Young children benefit as they have space to practise their large motor skills, all aiding physical wellbeing. Children are well rested as the childminder is aware of routines children follow in the home. Children benefit as the childminder recognises signs when children are tired and opportunities are provided for them to rest in quiet surroundings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are collected from the local school and are happy to go back to the childminder's home. Children are warmly greeted and exchange of information is shared to ensure the childminder is well informed of how children have been. Children separate positively from their parents, and are easily reassured when emotional. This is because positive relationships have formed outside the family home. Children are secure and confident in the childminder's home, crawling around and showing healthy dependence. Children are happy to explore toys, secure in the knowledge that the childminder is close by, and should they feel tired or emotional, they seek cuddles and affection.

Children have access to a safe environment where most hazards have been identified and minimised. Fire detection equipment of smoke alarms are in place, but a fire blanket has not been obtained. Children are supervised at all times and have access to toys and equipment suitable for their age and stage of development, minimising the risk of choking. Children are safe on outings as the childminder is aware of current legislation with regard to transporting children in a car, using the necessary restraints if required. Children are cared for in line with

parents wishes as written consent is in place to take children on outings or in a car and contact numbers are taken on outings allowing the childminder to make contact with parents easily, if necessary. In the event of an accident, the childminder is aware of the required documentation required, recording all accidents and ensuring parents sign any entries made. Steps are also in place to update her first aid training.

Children's wellbeing is promoted as the childminder ensures she is well informed of adults collecting children and written details are kept. In the event of an unfamiliar turning up, children are not allowed to go off with others and contact is made with the child's family. Vulnerable children are suitably protected as the childminder has satisfactory knowledge of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. The childminder has some knowledge of the referral procedures in contacting social services. However, she is not familiar with guidelines to fully ensure correct procedures are followed, to fully protect children's wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Overall, children enjoy their time at the setting as they have developed positive relationships with the childminder and enjoy using the range of equipment available. Very young children have access to a box of random items which they enjoy sorting through. Toys include rattles, cars, bricks, play people, stacking beakers and a telephone. However, natural play materials are not available. As a result, opportunities for children to make connections and develop understanding the world around them are not in place. The childminder has attended training in Birth to three matters, although she needs to consolidate and refresh her knowledge to ensure the outcomes are promoted for young children. Older children play with puzzles, have a selection of books, various writing tools and colouring books and can use their games consoles or watch TV.

Young children enjoy sitting at floor level exploring the contents of the box and are at the phase of making sense of items through sensory exploration. They explore toys using their mouth and pass items from one hand to the other. They look at and shake items, helping them to make sense of how objects can be used. The childminder ensures children have time to explore such items and also offers support by engaging in play and talking about the items children are interested in. Young children use the Duplo bricks, trying to stack them on top of each other. The childminder supports children by showing them how to use it and gently supports their hands to push the bricks together.

Children practise their large motor skills to develop their balance and coordination. Doors are left open allowing children to crawl around exploring the space available. The childminder also supports children by holding their hands and giving encouragement and praise to help them practise their walking skills. Children have further opportunities to develop their physical skills as they are taken to local groups and explore the range of experiences on offer. This also supports their social interaction, helping them to form relationships with other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Equal opportunities is suitably promoted in the setting as the childminder ensures the range of equipment is suitable for both boys and girls. Furthermore, children make independent choices of what they would like to play with, minimising gender stereotypes. Children experience the diverse community in which we live as they are taken out to various places of interest in the community. Children are taken to local parks and mix with children from a range of backgrounds at local groups. The childminder also ensures that her service is available to all children and families. However, provisions to reflect positive images of culture are few. A puzzle and few books reflect cultural backgrounds and people with additional needs, but this is not enough to ensure diversity is effectively promoted. The childminder has past experience of caring for children with learning difficulties/ disabilities and demonstrates suitable knowledge of the care involved to ensure individual needs are met.

Children are well behaved in the setting and show good levels of confidence and self-esteem. Children benefit as the childminder ensures they are made to feel secure. She ensures their routines are consistent with the home environment and recognises little personality traits to indicate tiredness or other personal needs. Young children are learning that they are acknowledged and affirmed and experience closeness. The childminder responds to verbal and non verbal communication using eye contact and responding to growls and attempts at verbal communication. Children are confident in seeking support, raising their arms if they want to be held and snuggling in for cuddles. In helping children learn boundaries and develop social skills, the childminder encourages children to be respectful towards others and explanations are given to develop their understanding.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. The required paperwork is in place to ensure contact can be made easily if required, and to inform the childminder of children's individual needs. The childminder ensures parents are informed of children's general wellbeing as verbal communication takes place at the beginning and end of the day. Parents are suitably informed of the childminder's responsibilities in caring for children as she shares verbal information about sickness and how children spend their time in the setting. However, information with regards to complaints is not in place and good practice of providing Ofsted's contact are not available.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She has completed the required level of training and steps are in place to update her first aid training. The childminder ensures she keeps her knowledge up-to-date by liaising with other child care professionals and reading materials sent through from the local borough. Although, the childminder has not familiarised herself with the recent changes in the amendments to the National Standards. For example, a complaints procedure is not shared with parents and the conditions of registration are not displayed during hours of operation.

The required paperwork is in place to ensure the safe management of the setting. Attendance records are in place to show that the childminder complies with her registration conditions.

Written parental consent ensures children are cared for in line with parents wishes, and records are in place to detail any accidents and the administration of medication.

Children benefit as the childminder organises her time around the needs of the children. This ensures that children's individual needs are met and their general wellbeing is fostered. Children have time to explore new experiences and develop their social interaction through visits to local groups. Time is also spent in the home where space is organised to ensure children can play comfortably and to ensure their everyday needs are fostered.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, two actions were raised to improve the outcomes for children. The childminder was to complete an appropriate first aid course for infants and babies, and ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times. Both have been suitably addressed.

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 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):

- obtain and fix a fire blanket that conforms to British Safety Standards
- improve and familiarise with child protection guidelines to ensure correct referral procedures are followed to fully protect children
- develop the range of resources to promote anti-discriminatory practice
- develop knowledge of, and have available a complaints procedure that includes Ofsted's contact details
- ensure the registration certificate is displayed during hours of operation

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