



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137911
Inspection date	13 November 2006
Inspector	John Edwin Warren
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 has been registered since 1987. She is registered to provide care for four children under eight; of these, not more than three may be under five years; of these, not more than one may be under one year. There are currently three children on roll.

The childminder lives with her husband, an adult son and two daughters aged 16 and 13. Their house is situated in Morden and there are local shops, a park and a primary school within walking distance. The ground floor only is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a dog, a cat and a guinea pig.

The childminder takes the children to the local school, nursery, childminders' drop-in, parent and toddler groups and the park on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a flexible routine that allows them to eat and sleep according to their need. Children's early signs of tiredness and hunger are recognised by the childminder who responds accordingly. For example, when children return from the morning school collection they are a little fretful. The childminder provides them with a healthy snack and a drink. This results in the children continuing their play in a happier mood whilst the lunch is prepared. Children have easy access to drinks at all times and are reminded to take more during the hot weather. The children therefore remain appropriately hydrated at all times. Children's allergies to food are carefully recorded by the childminder. This allows her to provide nutritious meals for the children that meets their individual needs accordingly.

Children learn to wash their hands after using the bathroom and before all meals. The childminder provides the children with the opportunity to be as independent as possible. For example, a step to reach the sink and their own towels to dry their hands. Children's risk of cross infection is kept to a minimum because of this good practise. The childminder has good hygiene practices, she washes her hands at appropriate times and disposes of nappies accordingly after changing the children. The implementation of a clear sickness procedure ensures the risk of children acquiring an infectious illness at the provision minimised.

The childminder carefully records the giving of medication and parents countersign these. This ensures that children are always given the correct dosage. Any accidents that occur are well recorded and a risk assessment made. The childminder has an up-to-date first aid certificate and is able to deal with minor injuries.

Children are provided with physical activities that offer them an appropriate challenge. They are taken to parks that have climbing apparatus and to local groups where there are able to play on wheeled toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean, warm and welcoming environment where they have access to a range of well maintained toys and resources. The toys provided offer stimulation and challenge and are appropriate for the minded children's age and stage of development. The childminder checks the equipment for safety on a regular basis

Children are able to move freely between the two rooms downstairs. They are able to self select their own play and learning experiences. In fine weather children are able to choose to play inside or out. The outside area is safe and secure and children are well supervised at all times.

Children are learning to take responsibility for their own safety and understand the outcome of their actions. For example, a child throws a small toy across the room. The childminder explains to the child that if he continues to do this he could hurt one of his friends. Children

are prevented from accessing areas unsupervised that may be of a hazard to them, for example, a gate is placed across the stairs. The childminder has a clear fire evacuation procedure that is practiced on a regular basis. However these are not recorded, so there is no accurate record in place to ensure all children who attend have had a chance to practise it. Children remain safe on outings with the childminder. She teaches them about road safety, for example, children are taught it is safe to cross when they see the green man at the traffic lights.

Children's welfare is protected by a childminder who has a good understanding of the child protection procedures and the signs and symptoms of abuse. She has recently attended a training course in this area to ensure she has the most up-to-date knowledge.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with the opportunity to make marks within the provision and at local groups. The mark making materials are always readily available allowing them to practise their skills. Children enjoy being creative with a variety of mediums. They are able to make models with malleable materials and paint pictures that are their own unique representation of the world. The childminder celebrates children's achievements by displaying their artwork prominently in the main play area. Children benefit from being able to express themselves through imaginary play. They are provided with small world play materials and pretend play resources such as pots, pans and dressing up clothes. Children are learning to make connections and understand the world around them. They collect their shoes and coats after tidying up. They know that this means they are going on an outing and need the correct clothing. Children benefit from the support of a childminder who listens carefully to them and responds well to their questions, allowing children to expand and explore each activity fully. The childminder understands that young children communicate through language and actions. She talks to the children as she carries out familiar tasks so that they link words to actions. Children spend time with the childminder looking through photographs of past events within the provision learning the names of their friends and people who are special to them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are provided with equality of access to all resources regardless of their gender. They have access to a wide range of resources that reflect diversity. For example, a selection of multicultural puppets and small world play people. Children learn about cultures and celebrations that may be different from their own by taking part in a variety of activities at local groups.

Although not currently caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities she has experience in this area. She has attended several training courses and has a willingness to work in partnership with parents and other professionals to meet the individual needs of the children.

Children's behaviour is generally good. The childminder has developed several strategies for dealing with inappropriate behaviour. For example, distraction techniques and time out. She

works closely in partnership with the parents to ensure consistency of care. Children are praised for their good behaviour and for cooperatively playing with their peers.

The childminder values the partnership with parents. Parents are given verbal and in some cases written feedback on a daily basis. They are well informed about their child's progress and the activities they take part in. Parents are given clear information on all policies and procedures. There is a written agreement in place that outlines the business and childcare arrangements, however this has not been updated and there is one area which is ambiguous.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. Comprehensive policies developed by the childminder ensure children are protected, their well-being is promoted and they receive the support that will help them to develop their full potential. For example, the childminder has recently updated her policy on transporting children in the car, in line with new road traffic laws. There is a clear procedure for users if they wish to make a complaint or express a concern.

The childminder organises her day well so that the majority of time is spent working face to face with the children. For example, any domestic duties such as preparing a meal are completed before the children arrive. Children have easy access to the activities which ensures that play times are fluid without any unnecessary interruptions. Children benefit from the support of a childminder who is committed to attending training courses to further enhance the good standard of care being offered.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was given four recommendations to complete. She was asked to ensure the complaints procedure was updated. This has been completed and users have a clear understanding of how they are able to express any concerns they may have. She was asked to ensure medication was stored safely and the fire blanket was accessible in the kitchen. Both have been completed ensuring the children remain safe and free from hazards. Finally she was asked to ensure the first aid box was checked and restocked accordingly. She has completed this and is able to deal with any minor accidents immediately.

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):

- ensure that relevant records relating to fire drills are maintained and evaluated
- ensure that written agreements outlining the business and childcare arrangements have no areas of ambiguity.

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