



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278923
Inspection date	01 March 2007
Inspector	Mandy Mooney
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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2004. She lives in Plumstead, in the Borough of Greenwich. She lives with her two adult children and her five month old son in a three bedroom maisonette which forms part of a low level block of flats. Children have access to the lounge and conservatory for play. There is also an enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for three children from one year to under eight years at any one time. There are currently no children on roll. Children are taken to a local childminder drop-in group as part of the regular routine.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, well kept environment. The childminder demonstrates she has suitable routines to protect children from the spread of infection. For example, she washes her hands before preparing food and uses disposable gloves for nappy changing. Verbal discussions with parents ensure that children who are unwell are cared for at home. Children are encouraged to develop personal hygiene by washing their hands after going to the toilet and before meal times. The childminder's up-to-date knowledge of first aid suggests that children are cared for appropriately in the event of an accident. Sufficient information relating to children's medical needs are in place and the childminder has appropriate forms to request written consent for emergency medical treatment. This helps promote children's welfare and means medical emergencies can be dealt with in a prompt and effective way.

The childminder demonstrates that children take part in sufficient exercise, this includes using a local park and playground. This encourages them to have a healthy lifestyle. She shows an appropriate understanding of the benefits of encouraging children to have a healthy diet and this is achieved by ensuring they have a varied diet which includes fruit and vegetables.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in an appropriately maintained and organised home. They have access to a sufficient range of age appropriate toys and resources. Discussion with the childminder and observations of the premises indicate some effective safety measures are implemented to ensure children's safety. This includes, a safety gate across the bottom of the stairs to prevent children having access. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their safety both indoors and outdoors, for example, they are encouraged to tidy up after themselves and while out they are reminded to cross the road safely. Children are appropriately protected in the event of a fire because there are maintained smoke alarms on both levels and a fire blanket in the kitchen, however, the childminder has given little thought to how she would evacuate the premises if the need should arise and this could cause confusion and delay the exit.

The childminder demonstrates a sound awareness of her responsibility in regards to protecting children. This includes having up to date information on the procedures to follow if a concern is raised. However, her knowledge of the possible signs and symptoms that could indicate abuse is limited and as a result could hinder her ability to make a referral if required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a sufficient range of activities and resources likely to meet their developmental needs, for example, books, puzzles, electronic toys and bricks. She is able to access a wider range through the local toy library. However, the range of toys available for the older children and those to reflect a positive image of the community are limited. Discussion

with the childminder suggests activities and routines are based on children's individual needs and interests and this includes following younger children's sleep and feeding routines. The childminder has limited knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework and as a result the benefits to children are not evident. Children have opportunities to socialise because they attend a local drop-in group and play with other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Discussion with the childminder shows she considers each child as an individual and she aims to provide a service to meet their interests. She gets to know the children and their family so she can get as much information about their background to best meet their needs. Children have opportunities to play and socialise with different children in the community because they attend a local drop-in group as part of the regular routine. The childminder demonstrates a realistic attitude to meeting the needs of a child with a learning difficulty and/or disability. This includes working closely with parents and other professional to best meet the children's needs.

Discussion with the childminder suggests she would agree strategies with parents for dealing with unwanted behaviour to ensure consistency. The use of praise encourages children to behave well.

The childminder demonstrates she works in partnership with parents to ensure continuity of care for the children. Required records and documentation are in place to ensure children's care needs are met, this includes, written agreements and consents. Daily discussions ensures parents are kept informed of their child's progress and day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has attended several relevant training workshops, such as, the introduction to childminding practice, child protection and first aid. This means children are likely to be cared for appropriately. The childminder ensures children are sufficiently supervised and that space and toys are organised appropriately so children can make choices about their play.

Required records are in place for the safe management of the provision. Systems are in place to record the attendance of children and this includes the arrival and departure times. A certificate of registration is displayed. This means the conditions of registration are likely to be complied with. Records are stored in an accessible and confidential way.

Overall, the evidence suggests that the childminder would meet the needs of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in 2005, several actions were raised. The childminder agreed to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection. To provide a range of play resources and equipment for children and develop her knowledge of birth to three framework. To ensure children's safety is promoted at all times by implementing effective safety systems. To ensure all required documentation are in place and to ensure all household members are suitable.

The childminder has improved her knowledge of the procedures to follow if a child protection concern is raised, this includes having current guidance, however, her knowledge of the possible signs and symptoms that could indicate abuse are limited and this means an indicator could be missed. The range of toys and resources have been reviewed and extended and these are readily available to the children, however, the range available to older children and those to reflect a positive image of the community are quite limited. The childminder's knowledge of the Birth to three framework remains very limited, however, she demonstrates a positive attitude to working with the network childminding co-ordinator to enhance her knowledge in this area. Appropriate safety systems are in place and this includes, a safety gate at the bottom of the stairs, a fire blanket in the kitchen and socket covers, this enhances children's safety. All required records for the safe management of the provision are in place. The childminder and her daughter have suitability checks completed and she has request a police check for her son. Children are not left with unvetted persons and are supervised by the childminder at all times.

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

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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 fire evacuation procedure and practise this with the children to ensure it is effective
- further develop knowledge and understanding of the possible signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is being abused or neglected
- extend the range of toys and resources to meet the needs of older children and those to reflect a positive image of diversity
- improve the outcomes for children from birth to three years by using an approach in line with the Birth to three matters framework

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