



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137893
Inspection date	18 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 1995. She lives with her husband and three children aged 12 and seven and one adult child, in the London borough of Merton. The whole ground floor, first floor and son's bedroom situated on the second floor are areas used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding seven children under eight on a part-time basis and before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has good strategies in place to ensure that the children benefit from being cared for in a home that is clean and well ordered. Children are learning good hygiene practices through the regular routines and good role models set by the childminder. Children's health is promoted by the childminder having a policy that she does not care for sick children, which means that the possible risks of the spread of infection are minimised. The childminder has written parental consent in place to administer medication to children. There are also good systems in place to record accidents and any medication that is administered. Parents sign all entries in as an acknowledgement that they have been kept informed. However the childminder has not updated her knowledge of first aid procedures.

Healthy meals and snacks contribute to children's health. They enjoy a choice of fresh and dried fruit at snack time. At mealtimes that are provided with nutritious home cooked meals such as turkey escalope's, broccoli, sweet corn, jacket potatoes and beef stew, mash potatoes, cabbage and carrots. During the day they have a choice of juice or water, which is always available to them to ensure that they are appropriately hydrated.

Daily access to fresh air and the opportunity to develop physical skills helps the children to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Each day they go on the school run and also visit local parks weather permitting. They often play in the garden and visit local amusement facilities such as whacky warehouse and Playbarn.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has organised space in her home well, which enables the children to move around freely and play safely. The childminder provides a warm welcome for the children, as a result they are confident and happy whilst in her care.

The childminder has a wide selection of toys and play materials which she rotates to ensure that the children have variety. The toys in are stored at children's level in all rooms they have access to, which enables them to self select and make independent choices. All the toys are of a good quality, clean and well maintained.

Children benefit from being cared for in a home where the childminder is vigilant about their safety both indoors and outside. She has taken steps to ensure potential hazards are minimised, for example, dangerous and sharp objects are stored out of the reach of the children. The garden is a safe environment for the children to play, where they can enjoy the fresh air.

Children's well being is safeguarded by the childminder's knowledge and understanding of safe guarding children . She is aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the procedures to follow should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play with a good range of developmentally appropriate resources that promote all aspects of their development. The younger children enjoy selecting their own resources such as cars, books, stacking plastic cups and imaginative resources. The childminder stimulates younger children's speech by promoting books and encouraging early language. She plans a varied day for the children in her care, they enjoy dressing up, playing with play dough and imaginary resources. Whilst older children have access to a large range of board games, books, small world resources, draw or watch television.

The childminder organises her routines and activities to suit the children's level of development which allows children to develop their confidence in the childminder's home. She ensures children's individual routines are observed so that they have time to be active and rest. Children have regular opportunities for physical development as they walk to school and attend toddler groups.

Children's progress and achievements are shared verbally with parents when they are collected. The childminder is experienced and has spent many years working and caring for children. She demonstrates a good understanding of how children learn, which is apparent in the progress and well-being of the children in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's understanding of diversity is well promoted because they have access to a good range of quality resources such as, books, figures with special needs, dolls with positive images of race and gender. Children have opportunities throughout the year to engage in activities that promote a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity and understanding of others. For example, they celebrate a range of festivals such as Diwali, Easter and Chinese New Year.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They have individual attention and conversation with the childminder who ensures children's needs are met well by following effective daily routines. Children are encouraged to behave well, be aware of the needs of their peers and to share and play together co-operatively. The childminder has devised a detailed behaviour management policy, which is shared with parents. She sets secure boundaries, joins in their play and learning and makes them feel confident about themselves.

Parents are provided with a range of written information on policies and procedures when they start the settling period. This allows both parents and children get to know the childminder on a gradual basis.

The childminder provides parents of children aged under two with written information and older children's are given verbal reports on their progress, development and activities each day. This ensures parents are involved and contributes to the quality of care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and secure in a organised environment, which helps them gain confidence and independence. Children have sufficient space in which to play and rest because the childminder organises her home effectively to ensure that the maximum amount of space is always available.

Children's safety, wellbeing and health is sufficiently supported and monitored by the childminder maintaining the majority of the required documentation in appropriate order. However the childminder has not ensured all household members who have reached the age of 16 have completed the appropriate vetting procedure and she has not obtained written consent from parent's to allow the assistant to collect children from school.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection an action and a number of recommendations were made in relation to documentation and safety concerns. The childminder increased the safety of the chest freezer by fitting it with a lock and her assistant has obtained the appropriate insurance cover to permit him to transport children in the family vehicle. All of which safeguards children whilst in the home and when being transported. However the childminder's first aid qualification has lapsed and persons in the household who have reached the age of 16 have not been appropriately vetted.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 written consent includes parents' permission for assistant to collect children from school
- complete an appropriate first aid course to update knowledge of first aid for babies and toddlers.
- ensure all members of the household over the age of 16 years completed CRB check.

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