



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY330377
Inspection date	17 January 2007
Inspector	Linda Margaret Nicholls
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 2006. Registration is for three children and the childminder is currently caring for two children, one full time. Overnight care is not provided.

The childminder lives with her husband and three children aged two, five and six in Thamesmead, the London borough of Bexley. The ground floor living room 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 local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing a good understanding of a healthy lifestyle through a range of every day experiences. The childminder ensures play equipment is clean so that the risk of cross infection is minimised. She uses barrier gloves when changing nappies and ensures mats and equipment are wiped before and after use. Children are taught to wash their hands before and after eating food and after messy play.

Children enjoy regular physical activities as they walk to and from school and play in the garden or local parks. They enthusiastically pedal trikes in the living room and throw soft balls. They attempt to balance, jump and step on and off plastic boxes. Children know how to relax, they stretch out in front of the TV or lay on the sofa to rest.

Children are encouraged to make healthy choices for snacks. The childminder discusses their requirements with parents who inform her of specific dietary needs. Children have an apple each day and are offered light meals such as oats and milk for breakfast and egg and sausage for lunch. A sample menu is displayed and contact books are kept for parents informing them when their child sleeps and what they eat. Drinks of fresh water, squash and milk are offered.

Children who have an infection do not attend which prevents the spread of contagious ailments. All required documents are clearly maintained and emergency contact numbers are carried at all times. Parents are effectively informed and prepared well for emergencies when a child may be taken ill or there may be a serious accident requiring emergency treatment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play safely in a well maintained and secure home. The living room provides an uncluttered play area and sufficient toys, play equipment, books and games. There is adequate ventilation and good natural light. Décor is bright, fresh and clean. Children can select from accessible toy storage boxes and free standing items such as trikes. Items are checked for repair or replacement as they are used and at the end of the day.

Children cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous. The kitchen is gated. Cleaning liquids and powders are secured. Fire safety equipment is fitted including a fire blanket and smoke alarm. An emergency exit plan has been considered and is shared with parents. The childminder ensures public liability insurance is current and emergency contact details are carried at all times.

Children feel cared for and secure. They learn the house rules and know how to keep themselves safe both inside and outside the home. They negotiate space on their trikes, tidy objects away so they don't fall over them and wait with the childminder at the front door. The childminder discusses and repeats good road safety habits as they walk along the roads to and from school.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder is confident she has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She has attended local Safeguarding Children training in 2006 and contact numbers are current. Parents are informed of her professional role at an initial meeting, with posters and a written statement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are stimulated and supported as they pedal trikes, throw soft balls, or practice jumping and balancing. Children are provided with plenty of opportunities to make purposeful and independent choices regarding their play. They choose to play with cars or build a tower of boxes. They enthusiastically respond to the childminder giving a 'high five' with a smile when she requests it. The childminder praises their attempts to say new words and phrases such as 'big, bigger,' and the names of children they know. They sing along to the TV jingles of favourite programmes and other songs they know, 'I can do it, you can do it,' and 'Move your body.' They know their work is valued because craft items and pictures are displayed. The childminder ensures there is equipment and materials ready for craft activities. Children put on aprons when they paint and use work mats to play with play dough. Children use their imaginations to play with dolls, role play equipment or to push cars across the floor. They concentrate and examine the graduated stack of cardboard boxes that they build to stand at the same height as themselves. They then lay the boxes down in a horizontal line.

Children are well behaved, learn to share and take turns in a warm and caring environment. The childminder encourages them to look after toys and equipment. Children develop good hand and eye coordination during craft activities when they use child safety scissors and when colouring freely or within outlines. All children are encouraged to play with all appropriate equipment. The childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework and is to attend an introductory day for an NVQ course at the end of January.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to develop personal confidence. They are respected and feel good about themselves because the childminder has a positive attitude towards physical and cultural diversity. She provides a good range of equipment giving positive images of other cultures and physical diversity. Family preferences and individual requirements are recorded and discussed. She is aware of the supportive role she can offer children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities should this be required. Children are well behaved and develop appropriate self control. They understand right and wrong because the childminder gives simple consistent explanations for the behaviour she wants. The childminder discusses her behaviour management methods with the family and ensures name calling and bullying do not occur. A record of incidents is maintained when required.

The partnership with parents is good. Children receive consistency of care because written contracts are reviewed regularly. Children's records hold medical details and the names of adults identified to collect children. Signed permissions and consents for recording observations,

transport and taking photographs are sought although not all are available for inspection. Information is displayed for parents and exchanged daily. Contact books are used to record events throughout the day. The childminder is aware to maintain a record of complaints and takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about all relevant policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and engaged in a stimulating and well organised play environment. They show confidence, are well supported and initiate their own play and learning.

The childminder is pro-active in her professional development and keeps all documentation maintained to a good standard. Records and information are held securely and most signed consents are available for inspection. The record of attendance notes when children are present and why they are absent. The childminder has completed an Introduction to Childcare Practice and is attending an NVQ3 introductory session. She holds a current certificate in first aid for children and babies. The registration document is displayed. She is aware to inform parents and the registering body of any changes to her circumstances that may affect the welfare of children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable. This is the first inspection following registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 appropriate written and signed consents are sought and held securely as part of the written agreement.

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