

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	109826
Inspection date	21 June 2007
Inspector	Christine Lynne Hodge

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 1995. She lives with her husband in a four-bedroomed house in Plumstead. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the bedroom on the first floor landing has been made into a playroom. There is a fully enclosed back garden available for outside play. The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children aged from five years to under eight years at anyone time. She is currently minding one child aged seven years before and after school and during the holidays.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children can play and relax in clean well maintained surroundings where the childminder has good procedures in place to protect them from germs and the spread of infection. For example, children who are unwell are required to stay at home, the garden area used by the dog is washed down daily with disinfectant and wooden floors in the childminder's home are regularly hoovered

and also cleaned with disinfectant. Children are learning good personal hygiene by being encouraged to wash their hands after going to the toilet, before meal times and after touching the dog. The childminder holds an up-to-date first aid qualification and has a fully stocked first aid box which enables her to give appropriate care to children in the event of an accident. Suitable procedures are in place for the administration of medication and the recording of accidents.

Children's health is well promoted because children benefit from a healthy balanced diet with freshly cooked meals which include, chicken, fish, pasta, shepherd's pie and fresh vegetables. They can freely select fresh fruit from a fruit bowl. Children also benefit from regular fresh air and exercise playing in the garden and on outings to local parks where they enjoy physical activities such as playing football and climbing on the large play equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure, homely environment where there is suitable and adequate space for them to play in and move around safely. The childminder has taken positive steps to ensure her home is safe by implementing necessary safety measures such as a stair gate, smoke detectors, a fire blanket and socket covers. Furniture, equipment and play resources are well maintained and are suitable for children's needs. Toys are checked regularly for safety and cleanliness. On outings the childminder teaches children to cross the road safely.

Children are suitably protected as necessary checks have been completed on family members and the childminder is able to demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge of child protection and procedures for safeguarding children. She is clear about the four categories of abuse and understands her role and responsibility for recording and reporting concerns in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a sufficient range of play resources and activities. The childminder states that children enjoy using a range of art and craft materials, playing on the computer and with construction and role play resources, watching the television, cooking and playing in the garden on the bikes, swing and slide. During school holidays, children benefit from various outings to the cinema, seaside and local parks where they like to play football and promote their physical skills on the large play equipment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children from all cultures are welcomed into the childminder's home. Discussion with the childminder shows that she has developed her awareness of equal opportunities. As a result she is able to help children learn to value and respect difference. Children also have access to a limited range of play resources that promote diversity and disability. The childminder tries to ensure that she meets children's individual needs by talking to them to find out their likes, dislikes and interests and by talking to parents about children's particular needs.

The childminder has clear house rules and boundaries and encourages children to be well mannered, polite and to respect one another. Positive behaviour is rewarded with praise and

encouragement and treats. Strategies for managing unwanted behaviour include time out and the withdrawal of treats.

Relationships with parents are good and contribute to children's care and well being. Information is shared daily when children are collected. Contracts, child record forms and consent forms are completed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder holds an up-to-date first aid qualification. She has not attended any other training as she has decided to wind down her childminding in order to spend time with her grandchildren. Children benefit from consistent care. Her home and play resources are well organised so that children can play safely and make choices about their play. The childminder keeps basic records including contracts, child record forms and an accident book. The Ofsted template will be used for recording complaints. The childminder meets the needs of all the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection five compliances were raised. The childminder agreed to ensure that children are protected from unvetted persons, to develop her understanding of anti-discriminatory practice, to develop her knowledge of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, to improve her knowledge for recording complaints and to inform Ofsted of significant events or changes.

An enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check has been completed on the childminder's husband in order to protect children from unvetted household members. The childminder has obtained a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures which she has read, giving her a clearer understanding of how to safeguard and protect children. She has acquired copies of the National Standards including the October 2005 updates and will use the template provided for recording any complaints. No significant changes or events have taken place that required the provider to notify Ofsted.

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):

- ensure that public liability insurance is in place
- increase positive image play resources that promote diversity and disability

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