

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY308409
Inspection date 29 June 2007
Inspector Lindsay Ann Farenden

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 2005. She lives with her one year old daughter in the Battersea area within the London borough of Wandsworth. They live in a two-bedroom flat which is situated within close proximity of shops, local amenities and transport facilities. The rooms available for children to use include the living room and two bedrooms.

The childminder is registered to provide care for three children under eight years. She currently cares for two children under five years on full and a part time basis. The childminder occasionally works with a assistant.

The childminder attends local community groups and takes children to parks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean home where they develop an understanding of good personal hygiene, because the childminder ensures they wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals.

The childminder herself has taken steps to prevent the spread of infection, by using disinfectant when necessary, cleaning the toilet seat after each use and wearing gloves to change nappies.

Children benefit from healthy snacks and meals, such as foods cooked from fresh ingredients, sandwiches with a variety of fillings and fruit, which the childminder knows children enjoy. This helps them develop healthy eating habits from a young age. The childminder works closely with the parents to make sure children do not receive any foods that have an adverse effect on them. Children are provided with easy accessibility to drinks which ensures they do not get thirsty and remain hydrated throughout the day.

Children's health is safeguarded because the childminder has a well stocked first aid box and has attended first aid training. Parents provide appropriate consents in relation to emergency medical treatment. This means children are safeguarded in the event of an accident. The childminder carries out suitable procedures for administering medication to prevent overdosing. The sickness policy informs parents that children who have an infectious illness do not attend thus preventing the spread of contagious ailments.

Children are provided with a good range of activities, which contribute to their physical development and a healthy lifestyle. They regularly visit community centres, where they are able to play in an enclosed outside area, ride wheeled toys, crawl through tunnels and use climbing equipment. Children also enjoy visiting parks where they further access large play equipment, receive plenty of fresh air. Children's individual rest needs are met well, as they sleep on comfortable air beds with sleeping bags.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around the home very safely because the childminder has given priority to protect children from hazards. For example, all cupboards in the lounge and kitchen have safety catches to prevent children's access to them and the kitchen door is kept locked, unless used by the childminder. Children are well safeguarded by a fire blanket fitted in the kitchen and working smoke alarms in the hallway and the lounge. The childminder has a written fire evacuation procedure, which she regularly practises with the children. This helps them learn what to do in the event of a fire.

The layout of the flat makes it easy for the childminder to supervise the children and be in hearing distance of them all the time. The childminder reduces the risks to children outside of the home, because she takes precautions to keep them safe. For example, she uses a wrist strap and holds younger children's hands when walking and ensures they wear appropriate restraints in the buggy. Children learn about road safety and the importance of using pedestrian crossings whenever possible. She also takes a first aid box out with her, so she is able to attend to any minor injuries.

Children have access to a good range of quality play resources, which the childminder makes sure are safe and suitable for their age and stage of development. Children can independently select from this range of resources, which are stored in plastic draws in the lounge, which gives them freedom of choice.

The childminder has a good range of equipment to meet children's needs such as a child size bench and seat, buggy, changing mat.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse because she has attended child protection training. She is aware of how to proceed if there are concerns about a child in her care. This safeguards children's welfare and wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and settled in the childminder's home. She joins in with their play by sitting on the floor and encouraging their development and skills with the resources. The lounge is well organised into a child centred environment. Children eagerly select what they want to play with, such as the doctor's set, using it with dolls based on first hand experiences. Children are constantly occupied and enjoy investigating how play computers work and using appropriate language, such as this is the mouse. Children express themselves creatively through a variety of mediums. They do sticking activities, make collages and mould playdough into models. Children get great pleasure from drawing and painting pictures. They proudly show what they have done to the childminder, who puts some on the wall, which gives children a sense of belonging and makes them feel their work is valued.

Children enjoy looking at books in the book area and with the childminder. They sometimes visit the library to look at and choose books. This encourages children's interest in books and language skills. Labels on toy storage draws help children to learn that words and letters have meaning.

Children look forward to visiting the one o'clock club and children's centre, where they can socialise with other children, access a further range of both indoor and outdoor activities, including a sensory room. This contributes to children's enjoyment and all round development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are met well, as the childminder obtains from parents details of each child's dietary requirements and needs when she first starts caring for them. Children benefit from the good relationships the childminder has established with the parents. The childminder shares information with the parents on a daily basis on their child's day whilst in her care, which ensures continuity of care for the children and provides them with guidance on child care issues if they request this. She shares policies which includes the complaint procedure and information on her childminder service with the parents. She has started to produce a file of children's art work for parents to keep when their child leaves.

Children have access to small range of books and play resources which provide them with positive images of diversity. They learn about their local community through routine outings to parks and community centres.

The childminder manages children's behaviour through distraction mainly and simple explanations that are appropriate to their age and understanding. Children benefit from praise for their efforts and achievements from the childminder, which develops their confidence and self esteem. Children enjoy a regular routine and when playing are kept busy. This prevents challenging behaviour occurring.

Although the childminder is not currently caring for children with learning difficulties and or disabilities, she would be happy to do so in the future. She would find out about the child's

needs and how they can be met from the parents. The childminder has attended training on sign language to enable her to support children with communication problems.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the home being well organised around the children's needs, providing them with a child centred environment, which promotes their play opportunities. The childminder dedicates her time to the children and responds to their requirements well.

The childminder makes appropriate use of contracts to invite discussions with parents about their child's individual needs and policies are used to promote the welfare and safety of the children. All the required records and documentation are in place and kept in a confidential manner. The childminder displays registration certificate, so parents can view it easily. The childminder attends regular training, which ensures she keeps up to date with current childcare practices. This benefits children's overall care and learning. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection actions were made to improve the quality of childcare. Since the last inspection the childminder has improved documentation, which includes a daily record of children's attendance and written consents from parents. She now provides a suitable range of play equipment and has attended training on child development, enabling her to provide a good range of activities to meet the developmental needs of the children. To safeguard children's health the childminder has improved hygiene procedures in the home and children now always have drinking water accessible to them. To safeguard children the childminder ensures all hazards are inaccessible to children and has developed her knowledge on child protection. Through training the childminder has developed her awareness of effective ways to manage children's behaviour to promote their welfare and development.

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:

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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):

- provide children with a further range of play resources and books reflecting positive images of race, culture, disability and gender

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