

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	115723
Inspection date	23 April 2007
Inspector	Sarah Morfett

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 outstanding. 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 1983. She lives with her husband and grown up son, in Sidcup, in the London borough of Bexley. The childminder's adult daughter and four year old grandson also live at home. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is 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 one child full time and six children part time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a cat, a hamster and some fish

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a very clean and tidy home because thorough cleaning routines are followed. Floors are vacuumed each day and strong regard is given to reducing the risk of cross infection, for example, toys that go in mouths are wiped each day and play dough is used once then thrown away so children are not exposed to any harmful bacteria. They learn excellent hygiene practices because high importance is given to hand washing before and after eating, after going to the toilet and playing in the garden. The childminder shows them how to wash hands properly by using anti-bacterial soap and rubbing their hands together paying particular attention in between their fingers where germs lurk. Therefore, children gain an exceptional awareness of personal hygiene.

An outstanding medication procedure has been developed; prior written permission to give medicine is obtained when children first start and the procedure to record the dose is secure. For example, the childminder has developed a medication request form. Parents have the request forms at home so they can bring them if their child needs medication throughout the day. Parents know they must complete these before any medication can be administered this makes the system extremely safe and secure, therefore, thoroughly protecting the children.

Children have ample opportunity to take regular exercise. For example, walking to and from school or nursery each day, as well as an excellent range of vigorous play in the garden such as, digging in the sand pit, playing on the climbing frame and slide, throwing balls, riding on wheeled toys and running around means they are highly active. Regular trips to the park during the week and frequent attendance at toddler groups let them experience a wide range of apparatus which promotes physical skills such as, large motor development and hand and eye coordination. They benefit greatly from a healthy diet because a wide range of healthy food, such as, a lunch of salad, humus and ham is available. Children can access regular drinks as their cups are within easy reach and regularly refilled. Therefore they are following an exceptionally healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in an extremely well maintained and child friendly environment. They make full use of the space available and every consideration is made to accommodate them so they are able to be independent. For example, in the bathroom there is a very good range of resources to enable them to manage their own personal hygiene, such as, freely accessible potties and steps so they may wash their hands easily. This makes them feel confident and important. Particular attention is paid to safety of the wide range of toys and resources. The childminder ensures that they conform to current safety standards and frequently cleans them so they are hygienic for the children to play with.

Children's safety inside and outside the home is thoroughly promoted. For example, the childminder is conscientious when carrying out risk assessments ensuring all hazards are minimised. She has installed substantial safety measures to protect children as they play. For example, a magnetic lock system is on all of the draws and cupboards in the kitchen, means the children can not access any items or substances which may be harmful to them. Effective emergency evacuation procedures are practiced regularly with the children and they learn about

road safety as they walk to and from school each day. All ages of children join in, therefore they quickly develop an exceptional understanding of keeping themselves safe.

The childminder understands her role in protecting the children in her care. She has a vast knowledge of the local child protection procedures and attends training to consolidate this. An informative policy is shared with the parents; therefore they can feel secure in the knowledge that their children are kept safe and secure.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well settled in the childminders home. They are eager to play with the immense amount of resources available to them. A wide range of toys are displayed invitingly at their level so they can independently select what they want to play with. Many more are stored in a large cupboard in the main play area. They are confident to ask for the resources they want to play with and purposely move from one activity to another. The content of the toys provides exceptional balance and challenge. For example, 'Touchy' 'feely' books help to promote their senses, books which help them to understand their feelings such as, 'why mummy still loves you when she goes to work' and resources which help to develop coordination are promoting their areas of development considerably.

Children thrive in the supportive environment. The childminder has many years of experience caring for children and has developed her knowledge and understanding of how young children learn through play by attending a variety of training over the years. Each week she plans purposeful activities based on the Foundation Stage, incorporating all the areas of learning. They benefit greatly from her interaction as she asks open-ended questions which make them think. For example, asking 'how' 'why' and 'what' as they play, extends the learning experiences for them. They think about shape and colour whilst threading buttons onto a lace by naming the colours and counting the sides of the shapes as they thread them on. Lots of praise and encouragement for their achievements ensures they become confident learners.

Experiences for children are excellent; they flourish in the child orientated environment. They make exceptionally good progress and are happy, confident and thoroughly at home in the childminders care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are provided with a meaningful range of toys and resources which reflect positive images of diversity. For example, they learn about disability, religion and culture whilst they play with small play figures, read books and complete puzzles. Regular trips out into their local community means they become familiar with a wide variety of people. Through informative play and discussion with the childminder they learn about different cultures. For example, they take part in celebrations for Chinese New Year and Easter. Therefore, the children gain a much wider view of the world around them.

Children behave extremely well with the childminder. Highly effective strategies are used to manage their behaviour. For example, distraction and redirection help to divert any incidents. Praise and encouragement build confidence and self esteem which spurs them on to try more challenging activities.

Children benefit from the highly successful partnership with parents. The parents are thoroughly supported by the childminder who displays a wealth of information about childcare issues and provides a comprehensive set of policies and procedures which ensures they are kept informed of the care their children receive. Each day positive feedback about the children's well-being is given verbally and every term the childminder provides a written report on the progress they are making. Therefore, parents are thoroughly involved and excellent relationships are built.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children feel at home and at ease within the extremely well-organised environment. They receive excellent support from the childminder who is enthusiastic and provides a range of activities which helps to extend their learning experiences. The childminder has been minding for many years and is thoroughly committed to providing a high standard of care for children. She takes a professional approach to her work and is constantly developing by attending regular training. Therefore, the children benefit greatly from her vast knowledge and experience of current childcare practices.

All policies, procedures and documentation are exceptionally well maintained and underpin the outstanding practice. A high regard towards the National Standards means all regulations are fully met. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to further develop her knowledge and awareness of Special Needs. She has achieved this by developing a comprehensive policy relating to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including reference to the Special Needs Code of Practice. Although there are no children attending at present, the childminder has attended training to help her support any children with special needs should she be approached.

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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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