

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122841
Inspection date	28 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 was registered in 1996. She lives with one child aged 15 years near Kingston, in the London borough of Kingston. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house and two bedrooms on the first floor are used for sleeping purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children aged under eight years at any one time and is currently minding four children on a part time basis

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

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn good hygiene routines, as they wash their hands with soap after using the toilet and painting activities. The childminder provides a child's toilet seat and step so they can reach the sink, which develops their independence with personal care. The childminder demonstrates

good hygiene awareness, by washing her hands before preparing foods and making sure her house is clean for children to be cared in.

Children are provided with meals cooked from quality foods and snacks of fresh fruit. This helps children develop healthy eating habits. The childminder works closely with the parents to find out each child's dietary requirements and provides foods, which she knows children enjoy. Children are offered frequent drinks. This ensures they do not get dehydrated.

The childminder is able to respond to minor injuries or accidents because she has a well stocked first aid box and has a current first aid certificate. She also requested parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment advice so children are safeguarded in the event of a serious medical emergency. Parents give prior consent to administer medication, which ensures children receive the correct dose according to their needs. Accidents are recorded appropriately and shared with parents. This ensures continuity of care. Children who are infectious do not attend to prevent the spread of contagious ailments.

Children take part in regular physical activity, which contributes to their health and help them develop control of their bodies. They enjoy going for walks and visiting parks, where they have opportunities to use large equipment in children's playgrounds. They also ride and push various wheeled toys in the garden and at toddler group. Travel cots are provided for younger children so their rest needs are met appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and are cared for in premises which are safe, secure and well maintained. The childminder identifies and minimises risks to children which allows them to move around safely, although cleaning materials and some sharp knives are not completely inaccessible to older children. Children's safety outside of the home is protected, because the childminder ensures children are restrained in quality car seats. When walking younger children hold onto the buggy and older children are expected to walk closely to the childminder. Children learn about crossing the road safely through projects at the toddler group and the importance of using pedestrian crossing whenever possible.

Children are well supervised throughout the day, due to the organisational skills of the childminder and the areas of the house used for childminding.

Children have good access to a wide range of toys, which the childminder sets out in the lounge, so children can make independent choices of what they would like to play with.

The childminder has a good range of equipment, such as buggies, child size table and chairs, travel cots and car seats to meet the needs of children she cares for well.

Children are safeguarded by a fire blanket fitted in the kitchen and smoke alarms on each floor, all of which are in working order. The childminder has a written fire evacuation procedure, but this has not been practised with the children, to help them develop an awareness of leaving the premises quickly.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a secure knowledge of child protection issues and procedures to be followed if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are relaxed and confident in the childminder's home. They relate well to her because she spends time playing with them and shows the children lots of warmth and affection.

The children love the creative activities which the childminder provides. They enthusiastically put their hands on a paint pad in order to make hand prints and make their own unique designs whilst brush painting. The childminder discusses the colours of the paints with the children, which helps them learn through play. Some of the models that children have made and their art work is displayed in the childminder's home. This helps children to feel that their work is valued and respected.

The childminder uses props when telling children stories. For example, she used plastic spider in relation to the story she read to them. Children consequently listened to the story with great interest and looked at the spider with fascination. This develops children's imaginations and interest in books. The childminder has made a nursery rhyme song book and the children like choosing which ones they want to sing.

The childminder spends time helping children with their fine motor skills, such as joining puzzle pieces together. Children enjoy building towers with construction materials.

Children learn about nature as they watch squirrels and birds in parks. They enjoy playing games together in the park, such as round and round the mulberry bush and ball games.

Children gain social skills from attending toddler groups, where they have opportunities to meet other children, adults and access further play activities. This enhances children's all round development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel valued and respected as the childminder knows the children well and ensures their individual needs are met. Children benefit from the good relationship the childminder has with the parents and she informs them verbally of what activities and outings children have done and what foods they have eaten each day. The childminder shows the parents her policies when their child first starts, which includes the complaints procedure.

Children have access to a good range of play resources which reflect positive images of race, culture and disabilities. This develops their awareness of difference and diversity. Children have many opportunities to learn about the local community, through the regular outings they are taken to by the childminder.

The childminder manages children's behaviour appropriately, mainly through distraction and using time out occasionally. She gives children lots of praise for their efforts and achievements, enabling them to develop confidence and high levels of self esteem. The childminder provides a good model as she talks to children in a kind and friendly manner.

There are no children with learning difficulties and or disabilities currently on roll. The childminder is though experienced in caring for children in this area. Through discussion the childminder demonstrated that she would ensure the child's needs are met, through learning all about the condition and working closely with parents and professionals involved with them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by a caring childminder, who when she is minding organises her day around the children. The good use of space within the home promotes children's play opportunities and care needs.

The childminder keeps all required records and policies are used effectively to promote children's health and wellbeing. The childminder's registration certificate is displayed so it can be seen by parents. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Recommendations were made at the last inspection. Since the last inspection the childminder has improved fire safety by providing smoke alarms at every level of the house and she has devised a written emergency evacuation plan. The childminder has obtained the local authority child protection guidelines, which further protects children's welfare.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 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):

- practise the emergency escape plan with the children on a regular basis and ensure all hazards in the kitchen are made fully inaccessible to children.

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