

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 590282
Inspection date 27 June 2007
Inspector Samantha Smith

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 first registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged five, 11 and 17 years old in Loughton. The whole property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for five children at anyone time and there are currently two children on roll attending on a part-time basis, including various days and before and after pre-school.

The family has a cat and two dogs as pets and the childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean home, where the childminder takes positive steps to ensure her home is clean and hygienic for children to use, which contributes to preventing the spread of infection.

These include cleaning all work surfaces before preparing food and ensuring the bathroom area is clean. Other hygiene practices include washing hands before preparing food and after assisting children with their toileting needs.

Children are encouraged to follow basic hygiene routines such as washing their hands before eating, after using the toilet, touching pets and playing outside. Children are further protected from the spread of infection through the written policies and procedures the childminder has in place to support her practice if children have infectious illnesses or if they become unwell whilst in the childminder's care. Appropriate care and attention is provided because the childminder has a valid first aid certificate and a first aid box is kept in the home. Written permission to administer medication is mostly obtained from the parent, however on some occasions signatures have not been obtained from parents. This is a breach of regulation.

Children enjoy snacks that are mostly healthy and nutritious. These consist of fresh fruit and sandwiches, and drinks are freely available. Children have their individual dietary needs met because the childminder knows them well, including any likes and dislikes.

Children take part in regular physical activities as they access the enclosed garden where they freely play with a range of resources, including trampolines, slides, bikes, a playhouse and sand and water play. They also go on regular visits to the park, where they use larger and more challenging apparatus.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a warm and welcoming home, where they use a range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources. These are organised well to encourage children's independence. The childminder takes extra care to ensure toys and resources are clean and safe, in line with British Safety Standards.

Children are safe in the childminder's home through the positive steps that have been taken to minimise any potential hazards. For example, the front door is kept locked preventing children from leaving unsupervised and preventing unwanted visitors gaining access. Restrictors are in place on low-level cupboards containing cleaning fluids, socket covers are in place and the childminder demonstrates safety measures she would put in place if babies and young children were attending the setting. Fire precautions are in place through the use of smoke alarms, fire blankets and emergency evacuation procedures.

When taken out of the home children's safety is further supported through the measures the childminder takes. For example, wrist restraints are used for young children. Older, more able children know they have to stay close by and that they have to keep away from the kerb. They also receive appropriate explanations about stranger danger and road awareness.

Children are safeguarded from child protection issues because the childminder has a sound knowledge of her role in protecting children. She has a written policy in place which is shared with the parents informing them of her responsibility in this.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a stimulating child friendly environment the childminder has created through the provision of pictures and posters displayed throughout her home. They take part in a good range of activities and experiences, which promotes learning through fun and independent play. These include small world play through the dolls house, construction and dressing up clothes. Their imaginary skills are promoted through activities including musical instruments, using play dough and painting activities. There are a range of books available to support children's listening and communication skills. Children are learning about creatures and living things as they show curiosity and explore the butterfly garden.

Children benefit from the positive interaction, encouragement and support they receive from the childminder. She spends a lot of her time on their level, interacting and responding to their needs. The childminder has a sound awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and is ready to use this in her practice, with babies and younger children, in order to meet children's individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Equal opportunities is promoted in the setting and children have access to a sufficient range of resources, as well as taking part in activities that reflect positive images of cultures and abilities. This helps them gain an awareness and respect for others. Some of these resources include books, cooking activities and discussions as they talk about a child the childminder sponsors in India.

Children behave well and are learning right from wrong through the consistent behaviour management techniques the childminder has in place, taking into account children's ages and stages of development.

Children benefit from the secure partnerships the childminder has established with the parents, ensuring children, as a result, receive continuity of care. Parents are provided with written policies and procedures and most written agreements have been obtained. The childminder has a clear understanding of current legislation in regards to handling complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are mostly safe in the childminder's home because most adults over the age of 16 living in the home have completed the required checks and the childminder is aware of her responsibility in this. The childminder has completed the required courses for registration and she demonstrates a positive attitude, continuing improving outcomes for children. She is keen to update her knowledge and keep abreast of changes in childcare practices.

Most of the required documentation is in place and well maintained with the exception of the medication records, which is a breach of regulation, as well as written consents to seek emergency medical treatment, which potentially compromises children's well-being.

Overall children' s needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. The childminder demonstrates a secure understanding of child protection, which ensures that children's safety and well-being is safeguarded whilst in her care.

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 prior written consent is always obtained from all parents before administering any medication, this refers to parents signatures
- ensure of written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is obtained from all parents.

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