



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 125142
Inspection date 27 June 2005
Inspector Linda Margaret Nicholls

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1989, and is currently minding three children. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Gravesend. There are schools, preschools and play parks within walking distance.

The rear living room is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden with an area that is safe for the children.

The family have a pet cat and tortoises.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is maintained with foods provided by their parents. Regular mealtimes and routines are followed although one child is reluctant to eat much. The family have sought professional advice and the childminder is working with them. Children have access to drinks when they need them.

Children are learning personal and social hygiene routines. The childminder reinforces hand washing before meals and after using the toilet. Parents are aware the family have pet tortoises.

Children like to explore their physical skills such as scooting a 'sit n ride' car and running in the hall with the buggy.

When the child asked for the car it was brought from the garden into the play room. The childminder did not take the opportunity to extend play into the warm sunshine in the garden.

A first aid box is directly accessible. Paediatric first aid training is current. An accident record, a requirement of regulation, is not maintained.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play safely in a clean, neat and tidy playroom. The limited floor space is kept clear to prevent children falling over toys. Furnishings are bright and cheerful and a small child sized table and chair are used for play and occasional meal times. There is sufficient natural light and adequate temperature.

The home is informally risk assessed and fire service recommendations are in place. Public liability insurance is current.

Children are learning some of the house rules. The child waited at the kitchen door and did not follow the childminder into the kitchen. The lounge door is shut to prevent access.

Children's records identify adults who may collect them and telephone numbers are available at all times so that parents can be immediately contacted. The childminder does not drive although parents have signed giving permission for children to be taken on outings and public transport.

Children's welfare is promoted. The childminder knows what to record and who to contact although parents are not informed in writing of her child protection role.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in their play. There is a stimulating range of well-maintained resources to intrigue and interest children such as a squeeze ball and a tea set with play food. Children are well supported by the childminder who is skilled at encouraging children to extend their experiences as they share pretend tea at the child size table. Children know the names of various colours and are beginning to use number words as when the childminder asked how many spoons of sugar should go into the cup of tea.

Children are confident and know how to engage the childminder in play. The child took the car into the hall then asked the childminder to take the doll's buggy into the hall so that she could be pushed along with her doll nearby. Children are learning to share and take turns.

Children reflect on their own experiences as when the child recalled she had been to a family wedding by train. One child is a confident speaker. The childminder supports and extends the child's vocabulary practising new and unusual words like gorgeous.

Children are learning to relate to each other throughout the day and when the older child arrives after school. The childminder manages her time to provide each child with her undivided attention at points throughout the day. She provides equipment and activities to promote younger children's learning. The baby enjoyed puffs of air on his face when he squeezed a soft play ball. He clambered on and off the childminder's lap for a drink and then pushed a small truck back and forth listening to the sounds. All children spend their time purposefully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about their world via a range of equipment and images in books, via TV and with some small world figures. Parents are requested to provide individual information and family preferences to ensure continuity of care. Children are developing self-esteem and confidence and can voice their opinions and make choices. The childminder has learnt a few words of Punjabi to help settle a child.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder is not currently minding a child with special needs.

Children are learning self control and patience. They are well behaved. They know the house rules and are beginning to respect and understand others. The written behaviour management statement highlights sharing and the development of social skills like politeness.

The partnership with parents is flexible and friendly, although some written permissions have not been recorded and there is no written complaints procedure or details how to contact the regulatory body. Daily information is shared between the

family and the home.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The children appear relaxed and happy in the clean and caring environment. They initiate and extend their own play and learning. Paperwork and documents are filed and secured when not minding. The childminder is aware to display her registration certificate.

Some policies and procedures are well written but others are unavailable, such as statements covering child protection procedure and complaints. The provider did not know she is required to inform Ofsted of significant changes to her household of which there have been two in the past year. She is not familiar with the criminal record bureau clearance procedure as it relates to herself or her husband.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to Ofsted to report.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- Keep a written record, signed by parents, of all accidents.
- Ensure the clearance procedure is initiated and that the regulatory body is informed of further significant changes to persons living in the household.
- Ensure parents information includes a statement covering child protection procedures, a complaints procedure and the contact details of the regulatory

body.

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk