

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 109804
Inspection date 14 August 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 satisfactory. 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 1998. She lives with her husband and one grown up child in Greenwich, in the London borough of Greenwich. 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding one child full time and three children part time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the effective cleaning routines in place. For example, the childminder uses anti-bacterial sprays to clean surfaces and each day she ensures the home is clean and

tidy. Therefore, children play in a hygienic environment. They learn good personal hygiene practices because they are reminded to wash their hands before eating and after playing outside and going to the toilet. Therefore, they learn that getting rid of germs keeps them well.

Accident records are in place and good details are noted. The medication procedure is comprehensive and parents are asked to give prior written permission should medicine be required. The system is very well developed and records of the dose and time it was administered are recorded, parents sign to acknowledge this. The childminder takes it upon herself to ensure she is fully able to meet the children's needs by attending courses on their individual illnesses, holds a current first aid certificate and keeps a well stocked first aid box. Therefore, children's welfare is thoroughly protected.

Children learn about healthy food because the childminder provides them with a home cooked meal each day. For example, they enjoy spaghetti bolognese or noodles and the childminder ensures there is a good range of vegetables included. Healthy snacks of fruit are provided and they have access to frequent drinks. Therefore, the children benefit from a balanced diet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming child centred environment. The childminder has ample space for them to play in, keeps toys within easy reach of the children and displays bright and colourful pictures which the children have made. All resources are in good condition and checked regularly. Children are fully involved in caring for the toys for example, they help to tidy up and join in with the cleaning routines by washing toys in bowls of soapy water. Therefore, they learn to respect the things they play with.

There are suitable systems in place to promote children's safety. For example, daily risk assessments are carried out to minimise hazards. A suitable range of safety equipment is in place including stair gates, socket covers, fire blanket and smoke alarms. However, there is no written procedure for evacuation in an emergency and although the childminder knows what they would do this hasn't been practiced with children, therefore, they do not fully understand what to do in an emergency.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the local child protection procedures. She demonstrates a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and has a suitable knowledge of the procedures to follow should she have a concern about the children in her care. The childminder has recently up-dated her knowledge of child protection procedures by attending a course. Therefore, children are safeguarded in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and comfortable in the childminder's care. They make choices about what they play with from the range of resources available. For example, they can choose from books, games, dolls, prams and role play equipment, such as, an oven and utensils. The childminder utilises the local toy library to increase the variety of toys they play with. Therefore, activities within the home are age and stage appropriate and children are provided with balance and challenge.

Children benefit from an active lifestyle. Each day they attend various local toddler groups where they play with a range of toys and equipment which extends their learning experiences. They have access to activities which challenge them physically and they are able to express themselves through art and craft materials. Children enjoy mixing with children their own age therefore, they develop good social skills.

Children have good relationships with the childminder. For example, they interact as they play, naming the animals in the puzzle and making the appropriate noises. The child looks for reassurance and receives many kisses and cuddles, which makes them feel valued and builds confidence. The young children's language development is promoted well. The childminder makes a game out of naming body parts and asking questions, such as, where is your nose. Therefore, the children make good progress with in the childminder's care

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for as individuals. The childminder records information about them when they first start and agrees review dates to ensure this is always current. For example, she records details of their medical needs, dietary requirements, likes and dislikes and religion. Therefore, the childminder is able to meet the children's needs. Children learn about the world around them through the suitable range of toys and resources available to them. They learn about other cultures and peoples differences when they take part in festivals and celebrations at the groups they attend.

Children behave well in the childminder's care. Appropriate strategies are used to manage their behaviour according to the age and stage of development they are at. Frequent praise and encouragement ensures they develop confidence and self esteem. Children's needs are met as their daily routine is shared verbally with their parents at the end of each day. Parents enter into secure agreements with the childminder. For example, they give written permission for the procedures which require them. Therefore, ensuring children are cared for according to parent's wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel secure in the suitably organised environment. They have ample space to move around freely and independently. They receive sufficient support from the childminder, who offers a variety of age appropriate activities which extend their learning experiences. The childminder has been minding for many years and keeps herself up-to-date by attending training courses and talking to other childminders. All adults in the home have been appropriately vetted.

All regulatory paper work is maintained to a satisfactory standard. For example, the registration certificate is displayed and the record of attendance is marked daily, noting arrival and departure times. However, the childminder has limited knowledge of the procedure regarding complaints. This means that parents are not fully informed of the procedure to follow or provided with details to enable them to contact Ofsted, should they wish to. All records are stored appropriately and confidentiality is maintained. Therefore, 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 ensure that the outside drains are inaccessible to the children and to ensure that the attendance record is up to date. The childminder has made the drains safe and inaccessible to children and she maintains the register ensuring children's attendance is recorded daily and notes arrival and departure times. Therefore, the children are safe and secure 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):

- develop an evacuation procedure which can be practiced with children to ensure they learn how to keep themselves safe
- up-date knowledge and understanding of the procedure regarding complaints and share this with the 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