

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 132622
Inspection date 08 February 2008
Inspector Tina Anne Mason

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 2000. She lives with her husband and son aged 16 in Plaistow in London. The whole of the downstairs 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 caring for two children who attend on a part-time basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local parent/carer and toddler groups. 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 are protected from the risk of infection and becoming ill. The home is clean and appropriately maintained. Children learn about personal hygiene and wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day. Disposable hand towels are used, helping to prevent cross-infection. The childminder has completed a first aid course in order to deal with minor injuries. Suitable documentation is in place for the recording of all accidents and the

administration of medication. There are written statements on the administration of medication, accident and emergency medical treatment. Information regarding the exclusion of children when they are sick is shared verbally with the parents and carers. However, there is nothing documented in writing to ensure all parties are clear about the procedures in place.

Children's dietary needs are well met. The childminder works in partnership with parents and carers to meet each child's individual needs. While parents currently provide main meals for their children, the childminder has an understanding of what constitutes a healthy and nutritious diet. Drinks are regularly offered and children confidently ask for water or juice to quench their thirst.

Regular physical activity is encouraged to help the children's growth and development. They visit the local park to run around and play on the swings, helping to promote their strength and stamina. During nice weather, the children also play outside in the garden. Indoors, children have sufficient space to freely run around and play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe and secure environment that is welcoming for children. Space is appropriately organised for play, enabling children to freely explore. Their independence is fostered as they self-select suitable toys and resources from low-level storage boxes. Suitable furniture is provided for children to sit and play together, and the family sitting room is used for relaxation and quiet activities.

The childminder takes appropriate steps to minimise hazards and promote safety within the home and on outings, helping to protect children. Fire safety appliances are fitted and smoke alarms regularly tested. However, the childminder has not practised the fire evacuation procedure with children to help them learn about what to do in an emergency. Children learn about keeping themselves safe. On outings, the childminder teaches them about the Green Cross Code and about using zebra crossings safely.

Children are further protected from harm as the childminder has a satisfactory awareness of child protection and the possible signs of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children happily settle in the childminder's care and eagerly engage in activities. The childminder plans and provides a variety of interesting and stimulating play opportunities to challenge the children and help them make progress in their all round development. She sits with children to motivate and support their play. Children demonstrate good concentration skills as they help to put the train track together and complete simple tasks.

The children's imagination is fostered well and they have fun during role play. Children enjoy playing shops where they buy and sell a selection of foods and resources from around the childminder's home. Children explore a range of media and freely express themselves through painting and collage pictures using different textured materials.

Children are happy and settled in the care of this childminder who has a warm and caring approach. Routines have been established which are consistent with home life. Children relate

well to one another and become friends in the childminder's home. Children are well supported by the childminder who encourages them to extend and develop their experiences by listening to them and talking with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging, receive good attention and are valued as individuals, helping them to develop a sense of security and self-assurance. Children learn about diversity and the world in which they live through some toys and resources, such as books, posters and dolls that reflect positive images of race and culture. Children celebrate different festivals, such as Chinese New Year and Diwali. The local library is also used for children to access more resources on disability and gender. Activities are not gender specific and all children have equal access to all play opportunities.

Children are well behaved and the childminder constantly praises children to reinforce their good behaviour. Children learn to share and take turns. They eagerly respond to simple instructions and are polite and cooperative. The childminder works with parents to support the management of their child's behaviour, and uses sticker charts when requested, in order to help children learn right from wrong.

Parental contracts and consent forms are in place. Parents are welcomed into the home at any time, and information is shared through daily discussion. 'Thank you' cards from parents show evidence of their satisfaction with the care provided and their child's happiness and enjoyment. There are some written policies to share with parents and there is a written complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are eager to attend and enjoy their time in this setting. They feel at home and at ease with the childminder which means their confidence grows as they initiate their play and learning. Space, play resources and activities are organised effectively to meet children's individual needs.

The daily record of attendance clearly shows that ratios are always met, which enables the childminder to give appropriate support and supervision at all times.

Records which are required for the safe and effective management of the setting are maintained, well organised and stored confidentially, thus ensuring that children's welfare is safeguarded. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to carry out the following recommendations; obtain information about the Area Child Protection Committee procedures and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children are taken care of if they have an accident or become ill because the childminder has written permission to seek emergency medical treatment. The childminder has an understanding of the safeguarding children's board and the procedures for keeping children safe from abuse or neglect helping to safeguard children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the 1 April 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 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):

- consider how parents and carers are informed of the policy for the exclusion of sick children
- ensure that there is a devised and practised emergency escape plan.

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