

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137941
Inspection date	07 August 2007
Inspector	Pauline King
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 has been a registered childminder since 1995. She lives with her husband and four children. They live in a five bed roomed house in Morden in the London borough of Merton.

The childminder works with her husband and co-childminder who are also registered childminders. All childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight, if working alone, and a maximum of eight children, when working with other childminders. They are currently caring for a total of 14 children between them who attend on a full time or part time basis.

Children are cared for in the through lounge/dining room on the ground floor. One bedroom on the first floor is used for children's rest, plus toilet and bathroom. Children have access to an enclosed garden area for outdoor play. The childminder regularly visits local toddler groups, drop-in groups and parks with the children, and takes and collects children from a local school.

The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and bright environment. Good hygiene procedures are followed most of the time, for example, shoes removed when entering premises and paper towels are provided for children to dry their hands. This helps prevent the spread of infection and encourages children's awareness of good hygiene. Children learn to take responsibility for their own health and hygiene through their daily routine by using sun cream and sun hats, washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The childminder's policy of not caring for children if they have an infectious illness minimises the risk of infection. The childminder has attended first aid training and the necessary documentation is in place to record administration of medication.

The childminder has a good knowledge of nutrition and provides a healthy and varied diet. Sample menus are in place and written up on weekly notice board for parents. Children are provided with a variety of fresh fruit at both snack time and for lunch. Children have access to regular drinks, which are placed in their own water bottles on a low table, encouraging them to help themselves when they are thirsty.

Children have access to a good range of outdoor activities and play that encourage their physical development and good health. For example, they make regular visits to local parks, toddler groups, Library and have access to outdoor play in the garden. The childminder takes and collects children from school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure environment, where space is well organised to meet their needs and enable them to play safely. They independently choose activities from a extensive range of good quality toys and play materials, stored on low level shelves in easy reach for children. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. For example, children draw and do art and craft activities at the adult size table, making sure pencils and small objects are out of younger children's reach. Good communication between the childminder and co childminder means that children are well supervised at all times.

Children are well protected because the childminder has effective safety equipment in place and regular, well organised routines to risk assess the premises. However, not all safety equipment is used continuously. Children are gaining a good awareness of their own safety by gentle reminders from the childminder to be careful in their play and with each other. For example, children are reminded to be careful when getting on and off chairs. The childminder's written evacuation procedure means plans are in place to evacuate the premises safely in an emergency. This is practised regularly, and discussed with children to help them be familiar with the procedure.

Children's welfare is protected, as both the childminder and the co childminder have a clear understanding of child protection issues and the action to take if they have concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident at the childminder's house. They enjoy a good range of interesting experiences, planned activities and play opportunities. These take place in the childminder's home, on outings and when visiting local toddler and childminding groups with the children.

Children take part in a good variety of interesting activities, choosing toys and play materials independently, selecting those that they find interesting and enjoyable and gaining confidence in their own abilities. For example, imaginative play in play houses in the garden. Children are well occupied and busy throughout the day because the childminder changes resources and activities when needed. The childminder provides a good range of creative materials and plans craft activities following the theme children have been doing which encourages their creative development and memory. For example, sticking pictures of things they see on holiday and making lollipops. They proudly show their creative work and talk about taking it home with them. They enjoy good interaction with the childminder. Children's early learning is well supported by the childminder because she talks to children continuously, reads stories and responds to children's individual needs. Children have good opportunities to interact with their peers and gain social skills by making regular visits to larger groups, such as toddler and childminding groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and their individual needs are met because the childminder spends time getting to know the parents and children well. She works closely with parents which ensures children experience consistent care. Good systems for sharing information are in place, such as daily discussion, newsletter and talking through the child's progress records with parents.

Children behave well and show increasing independence, for instance, when they choose toys and play materials. Their self confidence is encouraged through praise and having their achievements valued.

Children have good opportunities to learn about differences through access to a good range of resources and play materials. They use a range of play materials such as books, play people, dolls and dressing up clothes that reflect differences and diversity. This helps their understanding of the world they live in.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Appropriate checks for suitability were carried out at registration. The childminder and co childminder work well as a team, and identify their own strengths and responsibilities well. For example, the childminder identifies and attends training relating to developing her strengths, such as relating Birth to three, policy writing for childminder's and a speakeasy course.

Good communication ensures they are both clear about their daily responsibilities and organisation, such as who will be doing the school run and which children will go with them. Children's confidence and independence is well supported by the childminder and co childminders clear documentation, good organisation and daily routine, children and their parents know

what to expect. Children have sufficient space because the indoor and outdoor environment is well organised to make the most of the available space for children's play opportunities and care needs.

The childminder and co childminder share the responsibility for maintaining records, they keep all of the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and well-being. Clear written policies and procedures are in place, which provide good information for parents about the childminding service. The childminder has a strong commitment to increasing and updating her childcare knowledge through ongoing training and of the childminder Network. 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 obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children. Children's health and safety is improved as documents now include written permission from parents.

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 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):

- ensure bedrooms on second floor are 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