

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY318331
Inspection date 15 August 2007
Inspector Barbara Ann Bush

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 registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged four years, three years and four months in Brentwood, Essex, near to local amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder has no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for three children at any one time and has minded one child on a part-time basis since registration. There were no minded children present during the inspection.

The childminder lives within walking distance of the local schools and playgroups. She attends the local parent and toddler group, visits the library and the park with children. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates an understanding of how to promote children's good health. She has completed documentation detailing children's medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. She obtained written permission from parents to seek emergency treatment or advice for minded children and has completed first aid training. She states that she is confident about responding to a child's needs if an emergency should arise.

The childminder states that children learn about basic hygiene routines, such as, hand washing after messy play and toileting. Children are able to rest in the lounge and the childminder checks to see if they are safe. The childminder describes providing opportunities for outside play in the garden, at a gymnastics club, on walks and time at the park.

From discussion the childminder demonstrates an understanding of healthy eating, including the need to have drinking water available at all times. The childminder said that she provides food in accordance with parental wishes. She said that she ensures that children have a healthy snack each day and they can see the growing process in the garden as there are tomatoes, courgettes, herbs and peppers to nurture.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder uses the ground floor of the premises for childcare. The children are welcomed into a clean, well-maintained home that is suitable for their needs. The childminder states that children play primarily in the toy room and have a range of toys that are easily accessible to them.

There are a variety of resources available to meet the developmental needs of the minded children. Toys are stored at a low-level and children can make choices from the equipment on offer. Resources are clean and in good condition. The childminder rotates the toys to maintain interest for the children.

The childminder demonstrates an understanding of the need to keep the premises safe and secure. She has taken action to minimise the hazards within the home and completes a visual risk assessment. She describes how she ensures children are safe when transporting them outside of the home; children are securely strapped into the car with appropriate seats and restraints. She said that there are boundaries in the home and she ensures that the children understand. However, the public liability insurance has lapsed and requires renewing to protect minded children.

The childminder has information regarding child protection issues and is confident about procedures. Her clear understanding of child protection matters and actions to be taken assists her to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder states that when she cares for children she ensures that they have a varied day, organised around their needs. For example, taking children to the gymnastics club in accordance with parental wishes. The childminder provides a wide variety of toys including books, art and craft materials and larger pieces of equipment for outside play.

The childminder demonstrates an understanding of the developmental needs of growing children. She encourages them to share, cooperate and ask questions. She talks of promoting children's independence and supporting their growing curiosity as they play. She speaks of ensuring that children learn as they play, using a variety of materials to assist eye-hand coordination and language skills. Children benefit from trips outside of the home, for example, feeding the ducks and reindeer at a local country park.

The childminder has completed the training module for 'Birth to three matters' and has used the information to promote outcomes for younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates an understanding of how children should be treated with respect and as individuals. She states that discriminatory remarks are challenged and parents informed if necessary. The childminder said that she has resources that reflect diversity in the community and that additional toys are added from time to time.

The childminder states that she has no experience caring for children who require additional support. Should the situation arise with childminding, she states she would liaise closely with parents and any other agencies that may be involved with the children's care.

The childminder understands the importance of having a coordinated approach to behaviour management. She speaks about having discussed methods with parents and explains that she has firm strategies in place when setting boundaries for the children. She states that she gives children a chance, may count to three and then will take action. This is usually a 'time out' session. The childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of age-appropriate ways to deal with unwanted behaviour. She understands the need to record any incidents involving physical restraint.

From discussion, it is evident that the childminder has an understanding of how to establish a good working relationship with parents. She ensures that she has regular talks with parents regarding the children's well-being. She explains to them the service she offers and ensures they are fully aware of all the necessary paperwork. However, she has not informed parents of the latest guidelines for complaints, which assists the swift resolution of any concerns raised.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has completed the initial preparation training and a first aid course. She said that she enjoys working with children and is able to combine her job with family commitments. She has gained valuable experience from caring for children since her registration and plans to use the knowledge to improve her practice.

The childminder states that she maintains ratios at all times which allows her to give individual attention to the children. The childminder describes how she organises the day around the children's needs, for example, taking them to clubs.

Documentation is in order and kept confidential. She has all the necessary information to meet the National Standards. This contributes to children's safety and well-being as the range of information assists the childminder to care for the children.

Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- obtain liability insurance to safeguard children
- inform parents of the current guidelines regarding complaints.

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