

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY310702
Inspection date 21 August 2007
Inspector Marilyn Peacock

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 September 2005. She lives with her husband and their three children aged 11 years, two years and 7 months. The family live in a house in Romford, Essex, which is within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks, bus routes and a main line train station. The ground floor only is used for childminding and a fully enclosed garden is available for outside play.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder is currently registered to care for four children aged under eight years at any one time and is minding two children aged four and seven years after school and during school holidays.

The childminder collects children from school and takes them to the local library and park on a regular basis. She speaks English, Arabic and Urdu. 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 has all required documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she has a current first aid certificate and has parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment consequently children are safe should they have an accident while in the childminders care. The clear procedures in place for the exclusion of infectious children, help limit the spread of infection and helps keep all children healthy.

Children are learning good hygiene procedures, older children use the toilet independently and know when to wash their hands without prompting. Younger children are supported to use the toilet on their own and are gently reminded of simple healthy practices.

Children enjoy daily times outdoors, accessing regular fresh air and exercise. They walk to school daily and regularly visit the local parks where the large equipment provides a variety of physical challenges. Indoors, there is ample space to move around and practice newly acquired skills, older children enjoy activities such as dancing.

The childminder consults with parents about their child's dietary requirements and preferences. Children enjoy healthy freshly prepared meals and snacks. Children can access drinks throughout the day and the childminder reminds them to have a drink regularly especially after outdoor play and exercise, consequently they are less likely to become dehydrated. Menu's are displayed in the playroom for parents to comment on.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where most risks are identified and minimised. This means that they are able to move around safely and independently. However, the boiler housed in the downstairs toilet is not completely safe as the pipe work is exposed. The childminder has taken steps in minimising the risk by positioning a temporary cover over the pipe work but this could easily be moved by more able children, which compromises children's safety. Hazardous materials are stored upstairs or in locked kitchen cabinets, minimising risk to children.

The home is well maintained and offers adequate space and a suitable environment for children to play comfortably with the toys and equipment. Toys are organised in storage boxes in the conservatory used as the main play area for children. The childminder sets toys out ready for their play. Children are able to make their own choices about their play from the toys and equipment which are set out. Younger children enjoy making choices from the satisfactory range of toys and equipment available. However, older children have very limited choices as play materials suitable for them to use are few. Limiting their independence and inhibiting their creativity.

The childminder has an adequate knowledge of child protection issues. She has a satisfactory understanding of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child, which ensures their welfare is safeguarded. The childminder understands the importance of keeping a signed record of children's existing injuries.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and appear to enjoy their time in the setting. They are confident and approach the childminder for their needs, which are met appropriately. There is a satisfactory range of activities and resources to maintain most children's interest. Children concentrate well and enjoy drawing pictures of their families as they play together with the childminder's children.

The childminder believes children learn through play therefore, much importance is placed on developing children's independence. Children manage their self-care well, helping themselves to drinking water and washing their hands in readiness for their snack. Relationships between the childminder and children are positive and they are happy and relaxed in the home. Older children are helped to do their homework after school but activities and resources which capture their interest are few.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft, junk modelling, painting, listening to and playing music.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are met as the childminder follows their normal daily routine, as discussed with their parents at registration and as a result children are settled. Clear behaviour management methods implemented by the childminder help children develop their understanding of what is right and wrong. The childminder uses praise and encouragement to promote children's self-confidence and self-esteem. The childminder's simple house rules are applied consistently, therefore children know how to behave in the childminder's home.

Children learn about the wider world through visits to the local parks and sharing religious events and times of celebration. There are few resources to promote positive images of culture, gender and disability. Consequently, children are not able to develop their awareness of diversity and understanding of others while in the setting.

The childminder has very little experience of supporting children that may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities but is keen to develop her knowledge and understanding of how to help children that may need additional support. She recognises her responsibility to ensure confidentiality and ensure inclusion for all.

Suitable methods are in place to develop the partnership with parents. Policies and procedures on how the setting operates are discussed at initial visits and relevant written consents are obtained for most procedures. Children's well-being and how their needs are met during the day are discussed informally on a daily basis. This enables the childminder and parents to work together to meet the needs of the child.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All records are readily available for inspection and the childminder has most of the required documentation in place to make sure that she is able to meet the individual needs of the children in her care. The times of children's arrival and departure are recorded on a daily basis, but the

childminder often records these prior to children arriving therefore an accurate record of children in attendance at one time is not always available.

The childminder's home is organised to meet the needs of the children that attend. Her certificate of registration, public liability insurance and first aid certificates are displayed on the play room wall for parents to view. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was set 3 actions at her last inspection which she must meet by a given date, these were to improve knowledge and understanding of how to identify health and safety risks to children and take the necessary action to minimise these. Also, to ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times and to improve her knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in the regulations. The childminder has taken all the necessary steps to ensure these actions are now met.

Children's safety is now ensured as they cannot reach dangerous and hazardous material; they are stored out of reach and the childminder takes the appropriate steps to identify and minimise health and safety risks to children in her care. Records relating to childminding activities are readily available for inspection and stored in a confidential manner. The childminder has taken appropriate steps to ensure she understands the requirements set out in regulations by familiarising herself with the National Standards and the associated guidance consequently children are safeguarded when in the minders 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:

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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):

- extend knowledge and understanding of working with children that may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- ensure an accurate record of the times of children's arrival and departure is made when children arrive or leave childminders care.

- make pipe work from boiler safe.
- ensure that children over 5 years have access to a broad and interesting range of toys and equipment suitable for their age and stage of development. This should include resources and equipment that reflect diversity.

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