



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	109808
Inspection date	27 July 2005
Inspector	Sonia Steele

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder is registered since 1999. She lives in a first floor maisonette in Greenwich with her son who is 19. Her home is close to local and main bus routes, main line station and the Docklands Light Railway. The childminder uses the whole of the down stairs for the children to play and her bedroom upstairs for rest. She does not have a garden but takes the children to Greenwich and to local groups for outdoor play.

She is registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding two children, all of whom attend on a full time basis. She is a member of the National

Childminding Association. She has no pets and it is a non-smoking household.

No overnight care is provided

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home environment where they learn to enjoy a wide range of activities. The childminder has no garden so the children are taken out each day for outdoor activities in parks and playgrounds. Children are provided with their appropriate rest area and all are provided with their own bed linen.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene and understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet, playing in the park or when they go home from nursery. The minder said children were told of the importance of good hygiene and ,for example ,the youngest minded child indicated to the minder by showing that hands needed wiping before lunch. The childminder uses herself as role model when she washes her hands and puts on gloves to prepare the children's lunches.

Children are given a healthy diet which includes plenty of fruit as well as wheat germ bread, cheese, ham, peanut butter, tomatoes and yoghurt. The inspector observed children being given the opportunity to help prepare their lunch. The children are offered a hot meal in the late afternoon and the childminder encourages the children to try new foods .

Childminder is aware of "Birth To Three "matters and had a good understanding of appropriate play materials and activities to support their development. The childminder showed the inspector the resources she uses for babies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides sufficient play space in her home thus enabling the children to move safely and freely there. The childminder ensures that good safety measures are taken to minimises risks to the children . These include stair gates placed appropriately, a smoke alarm in place, a good state of cleanliness, a comfortable rest area and very good hygiene maintained throughout .

The home has good ventilation and natural light. Furniture and equipment are child friendly. The children have a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards and are stored in a well organised and easily accessible way in a cupboard .

The childminder has a good selection of necessary equipment such as high chairs, buggies and travel cots.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and she has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and the action to take if she has concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children enjoy exploring a good range of activities that are stimulating and fun for their age. They are confident in their play and their relationship with the childminder. The children are taught to share and play together. Their day is planned effectively so they may spend their time purposefully. This includes socialising with other children at local groups and parks. The children relate well to each other and make themselves comfortable at the childminder's home.

The childminder is aware of "Birth To Three" matters and encourages the children to express their thoughts and feelings. Good questioning and repeating children's responses were observed. For example, the

younger child uses gestures and body language to demonstrate that she needs to wipe her hands and the childminder repeats it and makes it clear she is understood.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met well. The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the world. The children are valued and respected as individuals. She ensures that all children have equal access to the activities and facilities available. The childminder has clear information about the children and so can give them appropriate care.

The childminder showed clear understanding of special needs and would be able to identify a child in her care in this category. The childminder has completed a special needs training course and would be able to consult with parents about the need for any special services and equipment for the children in her care.

Children behaved well and responded well to the childminder's requests. They learn the importance of social skills such as sharing and listening to each other. The children understand the routines and boundaries set at the childminder's home. Children benefit from a calm and patient environment where they are given plenty of praise and encouragement and the childminder respects their level of understanding and maturity.

The childminder works in partnership with parents who are fully informed about the children's routines and childcare practices daily. There are clear written contracts and agreements with parents and these set out the expectations of both parties as to the care of the child. This contributes to the children's well-being while in the care of the minder. The childminder is aware of the need to maintain privacy and confidentiality.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children were happy and well cared for in a comfortable and relaxed home environment. The childminder has organised her home and resources to meet the children's needs effectively. Children were confident in going to the cupboard and to choose toys .

The childminder has completed various approved courses . She has used her knowledge and understanding of childcare to promote the welfare and care and learning of children. This was demonstrated through set routines which she shares regularly with parents, safety which is promoted in the home and the provision of stimulating play activities. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend. The childminder displays competence and self-confidence and inspires trust on the part of the parents and affection on the part of the children.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder has improved her knowledge and understanding of special needs. She has completed a course with the childminders' network and intends to provide more special needs toys.

The attendance register is now completed appropriately illustrating the children's arrival and departure times.

Complaints since the last inspection

There has been no complaints since the last 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):

- children to be supervised at all times when playing on the landing

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk