

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 159547
Inspection date 29 October 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 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 registered since 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged 13 and 11 years of age. They live in a house in a residential area of Harold Hill, Romford. The premises are close to local shops, parks and schools.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight year. There are currently five children on roll who attend on a full or a part time basis. She also collects children over eight years from the local school.

The whole of the premises is used for childminding apart from the main bedroom which is made inaccessible. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children's health is well promoted as the childminder understands and implements sound procedures for recording accidents and the administration of medication. The childminder follows appropriate hygiene routines when changing nappies, for example, she ensures she cleans the changing mat after each use and disposes of nappies hygienically. She ensures sick children do not attend, to protect the children from cross infection. Parental consents are in place to seek emergency medical treatment helping keep children safe in an emergency and ensuring parent's wishes are met. Children have their own towels which are colour coded so that they do not get mixed up, this helps children take responsibility for their own personal hygiene, and limits the risk of cross infection.

The children's individual dietary needs are met because the childminder discusses children's individual preferences and dietary requirements at registration. She provides healthy snacks, such as cheese on toast and yoghurts. Children are given fruit with all meals and the childminder helps children understand what foods are good for them by discussion at mealtimes and through activities and projects. Children have access to their own different coloured cups and plates helping them develop a sense of belonging. Children's independence is promoted at meal times when they all sit together and serve themselves. Younger children sit in their high chairs along side the older ones helping them develop good table manners by watching the older children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is clean and well maintained. Children are happy and relaxed, displays of their art work are displayed making the environment welcoming to children. Children select toys and resources they wish to use from the broad range stored in the utility room. The childminder rotates the toys to ensure children remain interested and have choice throughout their time in her care. She checks toys and equipment as she puts them away to minimise the risks to children. Children enjoy extending their play out into the garden with a very good range of toys and equipment to give them challenge and help develop their physical skills. A large trampoline is used by the children under the close supervision of the childminder but children's safety is compromised as written parental consent is not in place.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety and has taken all reasonable steps to ensure children are safe and secure while in her care. The childminder walks six children home from the local school each day and she is vigilant to ensure they are safe. She holds the youngest two children's hands and the other children walk in front in pairs holding each other's hands. The front door is secured by a catch when children are present, stair gates prevent the youngest children that attend from accessing areas that could pose a risk to them. Emergency evacuation procedures are in place and known to the children that attend.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and happily participate in the activities provided. Children of all ages find something to interest them from the toys and resources available. The childminder shares close relationships with the children, who are occupied and secure in her

care. Children are encouraged to take turns, generally they play co-operatively along side each other sharing cars and play people when playing with the toy garage and train track.

The childminder has started to use the components of the Birth to three matters framework to record children's progress from the activities she provides. She plans to extend her planning to include activities which relate to the components so that she can clearly identify children's individual learning needs. She knows the children well and uses this knowledge to ensure that toys and activities sustain children's interest and build on what they already know and can do. The outdoor play space is used most days to give children opportunities to catch and throw footballs pedal cars and play team games. Children enjoy participating in cooking and baking activities and are skilled at making play masks to support times of celebration like Halloween and Easter. They compare the length of towers they have built from pegs and match colourful shapes to the cut out spaces. There are many opportunities for them to explore texture, consistency and colour when enjoying creative activities like cornflour painting and water play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are promoted well by the childminder. She ensures she obtains all relevant information on children's likes and dislikes when they register. Good settling in procedure help children feel comfortable in the childminders home. Parents receive written information about the childminders provision and all the required policies and procedures are in place. Most written consents have all been obtained helping ensure that the childminder can fully meet the parents expectations. Daily diaries keep parents informed of how their child has spent their day giving parents an insight into how their child has spent their time in the childminders care. Written references from parents state that parents are very happy with the care provided and are confident to leave their children. The childminder has an understanding of the regulation relating to complaints and ensures that parents are clear of the procedure to follow if they have any concerns.

Children develop their awareness of their local community through trips out to local amenities such as the local city farm. They have access to a good range of toys and resources that promote positive images of race, culture, gender and disability helping promote their understanding of the wider world. Activities built around cultural events and times of celebration help children develop an understanding of similarities and differences.

The childminder acts as a good role model encouraging and assisting the children to play happily along side each other. She values and respects each child and has a very good understanding of their individual needs. The childminder has a calm, clear and consistent approach and use of age appropriate strategies that helps children understand what is expected from them. Minor squabbles are dealt with quickly by the prompt intervention of the childminder and the use of good explanations as to why the behaviour was not acceptable.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder creates a welcoming environment where children are relaxed and at ease. Children use the indoors and outdoors freely. The large lounge allows plenty of space for children to play independently or with the other children that attend. The childminder plans activities to suit children's individual needs and play preferences.

All of the required documentation policy and procedures are in place. Parents are fully informed of their child's time with the childminder and most consents are in place to ensure children's safety and well being.

The childminder ensures she is fully informed of changes to legislation and childcare practice by attending a broad range of childcare courses and training events to update her knowledge and improve her skills. Consequently children are well supported and developing well. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection the childminder was recommended to ensure that emergency contact numbers are available on outings. The childminder has now recorded all emergency contact numbers on a card which is in her purse therefore easily accessible should she need to contact children's parents if there was an emergency while away from the house. Consequently, children are safe in an emergency.

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):

- obtain written consent for children to use the large trampoline.

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