

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 107337
Inspection date 17 December 2007
Inspector Christine Jacqueline Davies

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 2000. She lives with her husband and three adult children, in a five bedroom house, located in the London borough of Southwark. The whole of the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The property is close to local schools, parks and transport services. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight years. The Childminder cares for children after school and during school holidays only. The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted via established hygiene routines. For example, the premises are cleaned on a daily basis and children are encouraged to develop good personal hygiene habits, by washing their hands before snacks and after playing in the garden. Appropriate systems are in place to record medication and accidents. Written permission is in place to administer medication and to seek emergency medical advice, helping to safeguard children's well-being.

In addition to this, the childminder has maintained a current first aid certificate. Children are encouraged to try a variety of snacks and meals, which includes fresh fruit and vegetables. This helps to promote healthy eating. Children enjoy a range of physical activities which contributes to their health. Regular outdoor activities, help children remain healthy through fresh air and exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment because the childminder has kept the home free of hazards. In addition to this, children select activities from a range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. This enables children to play safely and independently. The childminder pays satisfactory attention to fire safety, by ensuring that a fitted fire blanket is in place and smoke detectors are in good working order. A verbal fire evacuation procedure is in place, but is not practised with children on a regular basis. This means at times, children's safety may be compromised. In addition to this, there is no system in place to record practised fire drills when they occur. Consideration is given to children's safety when off the premises. For example, children know how to be safe when walking to and from school, because they are able to talk about crossing the road safely and are aware of the importance of following the stop, look and listen code. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and has obtained up to date guidance, helping to promote the safety of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and benefit from a flexible routine. They have opportunities to participate in a selection of activities that are appropriate to their developmental needs. Toys and equipment are organised so that children can make choices during their play, promoting their sense of independence. However, children's ability to focus and concentrate on chosen activities, is sometimes hindered by the constant background noise from the TV. Despite this, children move confidently within the home and enjoy activities such as cooking, drawing, building with construction, playing in the garden and regular visits to the park. Children benefit from individual attention from the childminder. She gets to know them well and fosters warm relationships, to help them develop confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children respond well to the childminder and are able to express their needs confidently, helping them to feel secure. The childminder works in partnership with parents and communicates with them on a daily basis about their child's general care and welfare. She is aware of procedures to follow, should a parent have concerns about the service provided, but has no formal systems in place to record complaints. The childminder provides an inclusive environment for all children in her care. She encourages children to develop a positive attitude towards others via discussion and by challenging negative comments. However, children have little opportunity to look at books or use resources that reflect diversity. This means that opportunities to explore and develop their understanding of differences in society, through practical activities are limited. She has a sensitive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and is willing to liaise with parents, to meet children's needs. The childminder uses appropriate

strategies to manage children's behaviour, providing consistent expectations according to their age and ability. This helps to raise children's self-esteem and confidence.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that all members of the household aged 16 years and over are suitably vetted. This helps to safeguard children. Appropriate records are kept relating to childminding activities, which enables children's care needs to be met. However, a system for recording complaints is not in place. The premises are safe, enabling children to explore their surroundings with confidence. However, regular fire drills are not practised with children, potentially compromising their safety. Sufficient space is available to allow children to engage in a range of activities that are age and developmentally appropriate. However, resources reflecting diversity are currently not provided for children. Although written policies and procedures are not in place, the childminder has developed a positive relationship with parents, which enables them to be kept informed of the service provided. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection required the childminder to ensure that CRB checks are carried out for all members of the household aged 16 years and over. Since the last inspection, all relevant members of the household aged 16 years and over, now hold a clear CRB check.

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 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):

- provide resources that reflect diversity
- devise a system for recording complaints
- ensure fire drills are practised with children and that a record is kept

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