

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	110038
Inspection date	12 October 2007
Inspector	Teresa Evelina Coleman

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 1992, though has a total of 23 years' childminding experience. She lives with her husband in a four bedroomed house in Eltham in the London borough of Greenwich. The premises are close to local shops, schools and parks. The whole of the downstairs is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

There are no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children, of whom three may be under five years. There are currently two children on roll, aged three and six years. Both children attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, hygienic environment where good hygiene procedures protect them from the risk of the spread of infection and help to ensure that they are able to play, rest and relax comfortably. Children are learning to take responsibility for their own personal care because the childminder encourages them to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet and reminds them to use soap. A written health and safety policy, which is shared with parents, gives details of how the childminder promotes children's health in her setting.

A clear written sick children policy, which includes an exclusion policy, helps to protect children from the risk of illness. This requests that parents keep their children at home if they are unwell, for example, if suffering from sickness, diarrhoea or a contagious infection. The policy also informs them that the childminder will ask them to collect their child if they become ill while they are with her. Effective systems are in place for the recording of medication and accidents. For example, medication records include seeking prior written parental permission and accident records include a parental signature. The childminder also ensures that she obtains prior written parental permission for seeking emergency medical treatment in place and has an up-to-date first aid qualification. These measures help to ensure that she is able to take appropriate action if there is an accident or emergency.

A range of outdoor activities contributes to children's good health and all-round physical development. This includes playing in the garden in suitable weather where they are able to develop their physical skills by using some outdoor play equipment, for example, slides and a trampoline. Children also enjoy regular outings that promote their health, for example, trips to the park and pop-in toddler groups. The childminder understands that walking is a valuable form of exercise that promotes children's healthy development. For example, they walk to and from school.

Children benefit from the childminder's good understanding of healthy eating because she is aware of the importance of providing balanced, nutritious meals and healthy snacks, in order to promote their health and well-being. Written information for parents includes a typical weekly menu plan. However, the childminder does not currently provide any meals because the parents of the children she is looking after choose to provide their children's food. The childminder takes account of parents' wishes, respects all cultural and religious considerations. She also seeks and records information about any allergies or other specific dietary requirements. Children are offered regular drinks and this helps them to stay healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming environment which has been made child-friendly and comfortable. Consequently, they can feel at home in their surroundings. They have access to a range of age-appropriate toys and activities, many of which are stored in the outside play house which children greatly enjoy using. The childminder ensures that she varies the selection of resources regularly so that children experience a balanced range of activities that promote their development and learning in all areas. She regularly encourages them to choose what they would like to do. All toys and equipment are in a good, clean condition and the childminder

regularly carries out checks on their condition. This helps to ensure the children's ongoing safety.

The childminder provides a safe environment where risks have been identified and minimised, for example, cleaning fluids and medication are safely stored and inaccessible to children, socket covers are in place and garden fences are secure. Consequently, children are able to move around the premises confidently and safely. The childminder is aware of the need to provide a safe environment indoors, outdoors and when taking children out and has extended her knowledge by attending an accident prevention workshop. She ensures children's safety by ensuring that appropriate levels of supervision are in place, for example, when children use the toilet or play outdoors. Written procedures are also in place for lost and missing children. Effective fire precautions, including written emergency and fire escape procedures, are in place. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are available. Consequently, children's safety in the event of a fire is promoted.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare because she is aware of her child protection responsibilities. This is supported by a clear written policy that includes procedures to be followed if she is worried that a child in her care may be being abused. All necessary documentation is in place and includes relevant contact details for Social Services and Ofsted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's home and are happy because she is friendly and welcoming towards them. They are making good progress because the childminder is skilled at using her understanding of the children she is caring for to encourage their development in all areas of play and learning. Children benefit from the regular one to one attention the childminder gives them, her understanding of the varying play needs of children of different ages and her ability to engage them in meaningful play. As a result, children's development is progressing well and they are growing in confidence.

Children are flourishing in a cosy, homely environment where the childminder knows them well and clearly enjoys their company. Very good interactions between the children and the childminder as they play together ensure that children are beginning to develop effective communication skills. For example, as they take part in a drawing activity together, they chat about the house they are drawing and name the various parts of it. Children enjoy affectionate loving relationships with the childminder who is sensitive to their needs and gives them frequent praise and cuddles. They are confident in familiar daily routines and enjoy taking part in a balanced range of activities. These include regular outings to local parks, toddler groups, other childminders' houses and a range of outdoor activities in the garden. Children are able to make some independent choices and have access to good quality resources across all areas of their play and development. For example, they are able to take part in a range of activities, including role play, in the large outdoor play house.

The childminder ensures that she keeps parents well-informed about their child's progress by keeping individual folders for each child which are shared with parents. These contain dated examples of children's work and books of photographs of activities and outings. Children greatly enjoy looking at these and recalling past events with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are supported sensitively while at the setting as the childminder understands the importance of valuing and respecting all children as individuals and of meeting their needs accordingly. She does this by obtaining all the necessary information to enable appropriate care and by ongoing good communication with parents. As a result, children are becoming confident and developing good self-esteem. Effective links are maintained with parents through regular discussions. These discussions, together with individual children's folders, provide parents with good information about their child's progress. Children benefit from this as it maintains a consistent approach to all aspects of their care which helps ensure that they feel settled and secure. Parents are also well-informed about the setting because the childminder gives them access to a folder of information which includes clear policies and procedures. Parents have provided some very positive feedback about the high standards of care the childminder provides for their children.

Children are beginning to learn about others in the community because the childminder provides a range of multi-cultural resources that help to teach them about other cultures. This means that they are beginning to learn to respect and value others in the community. Children have equal access to all provisions. Consequently, they are encouraged to develop non-stereotypical views about gender. The childminder has a positive approach to disability issues and caring for children with a learning difficulty and/or disability. She is aware of the need to provide an all-inclusive service where all children are welcome.

Children behave very well at the setting. The childminder promotes good behaviour through being a good example, setting realistic limits, being consistent and giving children frequent attention and praise when they behave well. In the event of any unwanted behaviour, the childminder takes time to listen to children and explain to them, at their own level, why their behaviour is unacceptable. House rules are based around safety and respect for others. The childminder shares her written behaviour management policy with parents and says that she always brings any unacceptable behaviour to parents' attention. This helps to develop a consistent approach to behaviour management and, consequently, helps children to begin to learn right from wrong. However, the childminder does not currently have a system in place to record significant incidents relating to behaviour and the use of physical intervention.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The setting is warm, welcoming and comfortable. As a result, children feel at home and are very happy and settled. Good play space is available and this means that they are able to move around safely and confidently. Children enjoy regular opportunities to make independent choices and select activities that interest them because of the effective organisation of resources. They benefit from a balanced day because the childminder ensures that she provides a range of interesting stimulating activities. Children's daily routine is varied and provides time for meals, rest and outings.

Most necessary documentation is kept. However, written parental consent for outings does not include permission for using public transport and the childminder does not have a system in place to record significant incidents relating to behaviour and the use of physical intervention.

Documentation is well-organised and this ensures that the childminder manages her paperwork effectively. Records are confidentially and safely stored and are accessible to the parents. This helps to keep them informed about all aspects of their children's care. The childminder ensures that parents are also well-informed about her practice by providing them with a folder of information including policies and procedures.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection, a recommendation was made to improve children's safety on outings by obtaining appropriate vehicle insurance to transport children in her car. The childminder said that she addressed this issue at the time. However, it is now not applicable because she no longer uses her car for childminding.

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):

- devise a system for recoding significant incidents relating to behaviour and the use of physical intervention
- ensure that written parental permission for outings includes permission for the use of public transport.

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