

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118881
Inspection date	05 October 2007
Inspector	Caroline Preston
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 was registered 1998. She lives with her husband and two daughters aged 14 and 10 years in Cranham in the London borough of Havering. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five all day and two children over five before and after school. The family have a pet dog, two guinea pigs and two budgies.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children promote their physical development through a range of activities that include trips to the local forest which also supports their awareness of the local environment and understanding of natural resources. Children use the large well maintained garden and have access to a climbing frame to support climbing skills, they play with the see-saw, swings and balls and are able to run and jump around the garden because there is plenty of space.

Children learn about hygiene through washing their hands after using the toilet and before and after eating, they take their shoes off before entering the house, so learn that shoes carry possible germs from outside. The childminder cleans and disinfects her bathroom, vacuums her carpets and maintains a good standard of cleanliness around the home. She also ensures the pets she has including two guinea pigs, budgies and a pet dog are kept clean and safe. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate; therefore she is able to manage any accidents should they occur, she also has a fully stocked first aid box if needed. Therefore the needs of the children are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder does not practise fire drills, this means children have missed opportunities to learn about how to follow an emergency escape plan and promote their safety. Children have access to a large selection of toys that are safe and help to promote their development for example, programmable toys, talking play phones, variety of books, puzzles, play kitchen, hair dressing table, box of soft toys, trains and cars, musical instruments and play food. Therefore children have many options, which encourages their confidence and self-help skills. The childminder keeps her home clean and safe, the atmosphere in the home is warm and friendly, which means children feel a sense of belonging. All safety measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of the children. There are many working smoke alarms in the house to alert the childminder if there was a fire, a carbon monoxide detector also supports the safety of children. Children learn how to handle pets safely, so they can appreciate pets and learn about them. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues, she knows types of abuse, signs and symptoms, and has developed a well written policy to give to parents, so they understand procedures the childminder would follow if abuse was suspected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have many opportunities to learn through activities that promote their confidence and self-esteem. Children listen to music whilst they sit on the childminder's lap and look through books with enthusiasm and interest. The childminder discusses with them the different types of animals in the book such as elephants and calf's, the children feel the different textures and material's on the animals in the book, showing awe and excitement. They learn vocabulary such as, fluffy, smooth and soft. Children play with the cars, counting them and watching how fast they travel on the carpet, they pick up and name, pretend fruit, such as strawberry, banana and apple. They play with the programmable phone, pushing buttons and listening to what noises they hear. Children are settled and very comfortable with the childminder, they show they are secure and happy in her presence; they follow her around and show affection. This means children learn through play and are happy in their environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about acceptable and unacceptable behaviour by being given clear boundaries and house rules which are written and displayed on the playroom door, this helps children feel safe and secure and they behave well. The childminder uses strategies such as, explanation and gives time out to older school children, and uses distraction and offering a different toy to younger children, if children want the same toy. She reminds children to have happy hands

which means not to use hands to harm someone, if they push or smack another child, therefore children understand her rules easily. Partnership with parents is good, the childminder is friendly and professional when interacting with parents, she listens to what they say, when they exchange information about their child, this means the childminder can care for a child as the parents would.

Children learn about diversity by having to a good range of resources on a daily basis including play figures showing positive images of people with learning difficulties and from different cultural backgrounds. They also have easy access to a good range of books, about different festivals, books that explain why people are different for example in a wheelchair, or people who wear hearing aides. The childminder shows she has appropriate systems in place to support children with learning difficulties. This means children's individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her childminding well, children are kept safe and secure, and all household members over sixteen years of age are safe to be around children. The childminder has developed individual daily routines for each child, therefore routines support their well-being. All required records and consent forms have been completed and are kept safely in each child's folder, this ensures the smooth running of the childminding service. Parents are given well written policies and procedures that inform them of how their child is cared, for example, behaviour management, which shows strategies used by the childminder to manage behaviour. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve fire safety by ensuring the fire blanket was wall mounted, the fire blanket is now wall mounted in the kitchen. These improvements promote the safety of children.

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 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 and practise an emergency escape plan.

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