

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118908
Inspection date	08 January 2008
Inspector	Amanda Gill
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 has been a childminder since 1994. She lives with her husband and four children aged 13, nine, four years and baby aged 14 months. They live in a five bedroom house in Rainham. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years of age. The childminder currently has two children on roll.

The family have no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Child Minding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder describes how she promotes hygiene with children by encouraging them to wash their hands before and after eating and after using the toilet. Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home, this ensures there is less risk of infection. The childminder

holds a current first aid certificate and has a sound knowledge of actions to take if children have minor injuries whilst in her care. However, the childminder was unaware of containing consent from parents for her to seek emergency medical treatment. This impacts on the children's care in the case of a serious accident or injury.

Children are offered healthy meals which include meat and vegetables, a range of sandwiches, jacket potatoes, water, raisins and fruit. Therefore children learn about healthy choices. Children develop their large physical skills as they walk to the local park and use the park facilities to climb over, under, and through, and run freely. Children also have access to a large garden where they can jump on the trampoline, ride bikes or play with bats and balls.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Space within the home is suitable organised, and meets children's needs appropriately. There is easy and safe access to an appropriate range of toys and resources stored in the conservatory/playroom. These have been selected to ensure they are suitable for children of varying ages and stages of development.

The childminder demonstrates that she has a sound knowledge and understanding of how to keep children safe in her home; for example, she explained that she carries out a risk assessment of her home daily and takes appropriate actions to ensure the children can remain safe when in her care. Safety measures are in place, to ensure children's safety and well-being, for example a fire blanket is mounted in the kitchen and smoke alarms are in place on both levels of the home. The front door is kept locked, plug sockets are covered and cleaning agents are inaccessible.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues. She has an appropriate understanding of the signs and symptoms and knows what action to take, if she has any concerns about a child in her care, however, existing injuries or concerns are not recorded. Satisfactory systems are in place to ensure the safe arrival and collection of children, which ensures their safety is not compromised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how children learn and develop through play, and the provision of suitable and appropriate toys and activities.

The childminder has a wide range of creative activities on offer for the children to enable them to use their senses, explore and experiment when, for example, they paint, make play dough, listen to music and play instruments.

The childminder clearly explained that it is very important to know the children well to ensure that they are provided with activities that meet their individual needs and promote their learning. In addition, the childminder showed an awareness of meeting the additional needs of under threes to ensure they feel secure and comfortable in her care. This promotes their emotional development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are provided with satisfactory opportunities to become aware of their own and other cultures through a range of resources, planned activities and by celebrating a variety of festivals. The childminder has a positive attitude towards diversity and working with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This suggests that all children would have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential. Therefore children are treated individually and equally.

Appropriate behaviour management strategies are used, including explanation, this means children learn right from wrong. Children benefit from sound working relationships between the childminder and parents; daily exchange of relevant information supports this and the childminder is flexible with her working hours.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has organised her home well to provide a safe environment for children. There were no minded children present at the time of inspection, however, she is able to demonstrate how she will risk assess her surroundings, before minding, to ensure any additional safety issues are addressed.

Children will mostly be protected as the childminder is aware of maintaining her ratios at all times. She is clear that children do not have unsupervised access with adults who have not undergone checks. However, a confidential system to record existing injuries or concerns is not currently in place.

Evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote people with disabilities. The childminder has made significant progress in this area. There is a strong commitment to allow all children equal access to all activities and resources. The childminder has developed a satisfactory range of toys and resources for the children that promote people with disabilities. Therefore children are learning about diversity, the wider community and differences in society.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- consider developing a confidential system to record pre existing injuries or concerns

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