

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 118930
Inspection date 22 November 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 in 1994. She lives with her husband and two children aged eleven and seventeen in Romford 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 for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and she is currently minding three children under five all day and one children over five before and after school. The childminder is a member of the Havering childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the food they eat, for example they like to eat home made chapatti, they sit in their highchairs eating happily. Children are offered a range of meals that teach them about healthy foods. Menus include, cereals, rice, mixed vegetable, noodles, stir fry, quiche, vegetable lasagne, fruit and apple pie. The childminder is vegetarian, however prepares foods that is not vegetarian for children, this shows them people have different preferences. Children take part in activities promoting physical development. They walk to school, walk to the local park to

feed the ducks, they use the well equipped garden, they visit local activity centres such as Kids Kingdom. They visit various museums, therefore learn that walking is good for them, and keeps them healthy. Children learn about hygiene. They discuss why it is important to wash their hands, after touching animals at the farm. They learn to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder wears disposable gloves when changing nappies. This means that risk of cross infection is limited. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, so is trained to manage any accidents. She also holds a level two in food safety. This means children's health needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children learn about safety, for example they learn where to go if there was a fire because they practise regular fire drills. They learn that glass when hot can break and goes everywhere, so to keep away from fires. The childminder has developed a well written fire procedure and emergency escape plan, so gives high priority to children's safety. Children are protected if abuse was suspected. The childminder has completed further training and has booked refresher training in this area; she has also developed a well written policy which is shown to parents. Children have many opportunities to learn through play. They are cared for in a warm and stimulating environment, they have easy access to many play resources. These include, large garage and cars, shape sorting toys, books, puzzles, building bricks, art and craft materials, board games, dressing up clothes, dolls, castle, farm animals and stickle bricks.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play happily with the large garage and cars; they sit comfortably in the spacious front room and concentrate on their play. The childminder sits with them and plays with them, encouraging their language by asking them questions. Children learn to thread through buttons, they mix and sort different small toys. Children have many good opportunities to learn, they develop imaginative skills by using the large play kitchen and dressing up clothes. They play with paints, glitter, stamping kit, musical toys, dolls house, mosaic kit, and tapestry. Children visit local childminding groups; they visit the park and library, Kid's Kingdom and museums. This means children are stimulated, happy and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the differences people have who live in today's society. They have access to play resources that show differences in people, such as dressing up clothes, puzzles, books and dolls. They learn about different cultural festivals such as Christmas, Eid and Diwali. The childminder offers children food from her cultural background such as chapatti's which enriches children's tastes and understanding of differences. There are sound systems in place to support children with learning difficulties, which means children, are treated equally. Children behave well and learn about right and wrong. The childminder uses explanation and discussion, to manage any negative behaviour, and cuddles and praises children when their behaviour is good. Partnership with parents is good. The childminder writes down each child's daily activities and verbally gives this information to parents. She has also developed well written policies and procedures to give to parents, so they are always informed about their child's day and the childcare service.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's arrival and departure times are recorded at the end of the day, therefore not completed as children arrive and depart. Children receive good care. All household members are suitably checked, so safe to be around children. The daily routine ensures that all children's needs are met, children are taken out daily to childminding groups; therefore develop strong links with other children. The childminder has improved her childcare knowledge; she has completed level two of the Quality First training and completed training to become part of a childminding network. Therefore she reflects on her current practice, which improves the service she offers. All required documentation is in place to ensure children are kept safe. The childminder has developed a well written range of policies and procedures which are shared with parents. These include, child protection, equal opportunities, risk assessments, lost child policy, minor and major accident procedure and health and safety and complaints procedure. This means that she has clear procedures to follow, which supports children's care. 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 practise and devise an emergency escape plan. The childminder carries out regular fire drills, these improvements promotes 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 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):

- develop clearer systems to record children's arrival and departure times.

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