

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 124251
Inspection date 23 January 2008
Inspector Pamela Bailey

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 1997. She lives with her husband and two teenage children and one child aged eight years in the London Borough of Croydon. 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years and two children over five years before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/carer toddler groups and takes children to the local library and park. The childminder regularly works with an assistant.

The childminder is a member of the Croydon Childminders Association and the Croydon Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because the childminder follows highly effective procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. The exceptional adult support and well implemented routines helps children to gain an excellent understanding of hygiene, a real desire to become independent and enjoy a worthwhile range of activities which help to promote their good health.

Children play in a very clean environment and effective procedures are in place to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder monitors hand washing and provides resources to support children in developing good self care skills, such as a booster step and disposable hand towels. Good explanations and displays helps children to understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating food. Children who are infectious do not attend thus preventing the spread of contagious ailments.

Parents are kept informed of the sickness policy and the childminder gains all relevant information about children's health needs. She holds a current first aid certificate and received specialist training to administer any invasive medicines. This ensures children's individual medical needs are met and she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. All the required documentation such as the accident records and medication records are very well maintained.

Children receive plenty of drinks, can help themselves to easily accessible fresh drinking water throughout the day and enjoy fresh fruits and salads at snack time. They learn the importance of eating healthily through discussion, role play, being involved in selecting ingredients and helping to prepare their meals. The childminder monitors the menu and discusses with parents to ensure that meals and snacks are varied and cater for all tastes and special dietary requirements.

Children regularly take part in a range of physical activities both indoors and outdoors that contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Outings to the park, soft play area and children's groups where there are large climbing equipment and wheeled toys gives children plenty of opportunity to practise and develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play and learn in an extremely well organised, safe and secure environment. They have easy and safe access to an extensive range of good quality equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development. Risks of accidental injuries to children are minimised because the childminder is very vigilant about children's safety and has taken positive steps to reduce potential risks and hazards. For example, stair gates are in place and dangerous substances are inaccessible to the children. The garden is safe for children to enjoy fresh air and play with wheeled toys and large climbing equipment, which is secure and suitable for children's use. Regular checks of the premises and fire equipment contributes to children's safety.

Children learn about road safety and practise the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis. This helps children to become familiar with the routines and learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who has a very secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children policies and procedures and gives top priority to children's welfare. She has effective procedures in place in case of an emergency and in the event of a child being lost or uncollected, which are discussed with parents and contributes to children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are actively involved in their learning. They independently select activities and see to their personal needs. Their spoken language is developing well. Children express their thoughts and feelings during role play situations and when taking part in group activities. The childminder uses good questioning techniques to encourage use of language. Children are able to recall past and present events and talk excitedly about them. For example, going on holiday, feeding the ducks in the park and making sandwiches for lunch. They learn about the environment through visits to the farm and sea side.

Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as drawing and art and craft. They benefit from visits to children's groups where they can take part in additional activities such as gloop, sand and water.

Children learn about shape, colours, sorting and numbers during practical activities. Their finer motor skills are developing well. They are competent when selecting and using small equipment such as shape cutters and moulding play dough with their hands.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do and talk happily about things that are important to them. A good range of activities and resources and acknowledging different festivals help children to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them. The childminder has a positive attitude towards diversity and ensures that she gains information relating to children's individual needs. She has lots of experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disability. Close liaison with parents ensures that activities are appropriate for the children's level of ability and all children are included. Children behave well and benefit from lots of praise and encouragement. Older children help in the setting of ground rules. This helps them to learn to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour.

Relationships with parents are very friendly and supportive. There are both formal and informal systems in place for the childminder and parents to share information about the children and childminding service. For example, the childminder discusses her policies and procedures with the parents. The parents have opportunities to comment on the service and are kept well informed about the complaints procedures. Many parents have expressed that they are very happy with the care that their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled in the well organised environment and receive good adult support. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Policies and

procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. They are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity of care.

The childminder has recently attended child protection training, Birth to three matters, Behaviour and emotional well-being of children, Helping children stay safe, Sensory work in the home setting and Caring for school age children. This helps her to reflect, monitor and improve the quality of care she offers to all children.

All documentation required for the safe and effective management of the childminding service is in place and readily available for inspection. Most records are accurately maintained. However, the children's daily record of attendance notes their contractual hours as agreed with parents.

Overall, 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 agreed to improve documentation and provide an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has made significant improvements. There is a system in place for recording children's attendance and children have access to many resources that reflect positive images of all aspects of society. This promotes a positive attitude towards diversity and children learn to accept differences.

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):

- keep an accurate record of the children's daily hours of attendance

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