

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 124657
Inspection date 13 November 2007
Inspector Claire Jean Douglas

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 1999. She lives with her partner and three children aged 12, 10 and two years old. They live in a three bed room house in a residential area of Croydon, close to local shops, schools, public transport and parks. The ground floor is the main area used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have two pet cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old at any one time, and there are currently five children on roll. The childminder has an NVQ level three in childcare and has attended relevant early years training. The childminder is a member of the Croydon Childminding Network and the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Effective hygiene practices are used to help protect children from illness and the risks of cross infection. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly and they have

their own towels. The daily routine ensures that all children have the opportunity to enjoy physical outdoor activities, when they walk up to the local school and back, and when visiting toddler groups where they can choose from a variety of activities, including, jumping on a small trampoline, pedalling a bike or climbing a small climbing frame. All of which positively contribute to their good health and encourage them to develop a healthy lifestyle.

Children's health is supported as the childminder has systems in place to keep records of any accidents children have and any medicine they need to administer. The childminder has ensured that parents have given their written consent, so that she can seek medical advice or treatment for their child in an emergency. This means that parents' wishes regarding action to be taken in an emergency, are clear.

Children benefit from a nutritional menu, which includes a variety of home cooked meals and fresh fruit, such as tuna, sweet corn and pasta salad followed by fruit, and spaghetti bolognese followed by yoghurt. The childminder ensures that fresh drinking water is always available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child orientated, well maintained environment with facilities to meet their needs. Their risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder takes effective steps to identify and reduce potential hazards. For example, the childminder, conducts regular risk assessments of the setting, ensuring that children are playing with toys and equipment which are clean, in good condition and suitable for their age and purpose. She also keeps all electrical sockets covered, this helps to ensure they can play safely.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has attended recent training and is familiar with possible signs of child abuse or neglect. She is aware of her responsibility to record and report any concerns and keeps the required documentation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel comfortable and feel at home in the childminder's house. The main play area is dedicated to childminding, with displays of children's art work and informative posters on display, such as numbers and letters. The childminder is attentive to their needs and responds to them positively. Children benefit from a familiar daily routine for playing, school runs, toddler groups, meals and sleeping. This helps them feel secure and settle quickly. Children take part in a range of activities that are suitable for their age, such as playing with play dough or putting together floor puzzles. They also enjoy morning outings to toddler groups or childminder network groups, where they are able to interact with other children and choose from a large variety of activities. The children quickly become competent communicators as the childminder uses supportive and enthusiastic interaction at all levels that enable children to develop confidence and make progress in their social learning.

The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of child development and the needs of different age groups. Young children have their needs met because the childminder has an understanding of their needs and is beginning to use the Birth to three matters framework to inform her practice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and valued as individuals. The childminder's positive, consistent approach to rules and boundaries, helps children to behave well. They begin to develop a positive view of the wider community when they use resources, such as a large selection of books and dolls and as they view posters that reflect positive images of diversity. The childminder helps children explore festivals, such as Divali, as they look through a range of books from the local library together. Children benefit from positive relationships between the childminder and their parents. They talk to each other daily to exchange information, the childminder uses contact books for younger children, she also ensures they take home pieces of art work and photographs. This all helps children experience consistent care.

The childminder is fully aware that some children may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and is proactive in ensuring that all children's needs are met appropriately in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in an organised, child orientated setting, by a childminder who dedicates her time and attention fully to the children when they are present. Indoor and outdoor space is arranged purposefully to maximise play and learning opportunities for children. The childminder records and shares children's progress with parents on a regular basis to ensure she effectively meets all children's needs. The childminder keeps the appropriate records required to promote the health, safety and welfare of minded children, however, the child protection procedures need updating to refer to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board [LSCB]. The childminder is proactive in attending relevant training. This ensures she is able to provide appropriate care for the children she looks after. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and to obtain the Government child protection guidance, 'What To Do If Your Worried A Child is Being Abused' summary. The childminder has obtained the Government child protection guidance. She has devised a complaints log and a complaints policy for parents.

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):

- update the Child protection procedures to refer to the local safeguarding children board, (LSCB).

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