

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 132632
Inspection date 17 January 2008
Inspector Mary Holt

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 registered since 1992, she lives with her husband and two adult children aged 21 and 19 years old. The family live in a three bedroom house situated in a residential area of Beckton which is within the London borough of Newham. The premises are within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks, community resources and public transport.

Although the whole of the property is registered, childminding mainly takes place on the ground floor. A fully enclosed garden is available to the rear of the premises for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years, she is currently caring for two children aged two and a half and 11 months old, one is cared for on a full time basis, and one is cared for on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic home where their health is promoted well. Daily walks and visits to local parks as well as use of the back garden, ensure that children are able to get lots of fresh air and exercise.

Children's individual health needs are documented and appropriate systems are in place to record accidents and the administration of first aid and medication. The childminder ensures that her first aid training is kept current and the first aid kit is kept appropriately stocked.

Children's dietary needs are respected and adhered to and written information regarding this is appropriately recorded. In agreement with parents, they provide their children with their mid day meal, the childminder offers a light snack if required. Fresh drinking water is provided throughout the day, children access their individual beakers easily. A choice of water or fruit juice is offered with meals and snacks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Good use is made of the space available to provide a child friendly and welcoming environment where children can play freely. An appropriate range of good quality toys and play resources are attractively presented and accessible on the ground floor. The use of a low level storage system means that children are able to make their own choices and add to their play independently. The childminder makes good use of the local toy library to complement her own equipment to provide children with a balanced range.

Children learn to keep themselves safe on outings through the childminder's clear expectations of older children walking sensibly beside her and the use of buggies and walking reins with younger children.

Good regard is given to fire safety, smoke alarms are fitted on both levels of the home, the fire blanket is wall mounted and ready for use in the kitchen and smoke alarms are tested on a weekly basis.

The childminder is clear on her role and responsibility to ensure that any concerns regarding child protection are passed on to the local authority for immediate investigation, she is confident about the local processes. The childminder has copies of guidance and procedures, contact numbers are readily to hand if required. This means that there is no risk of a delay in children and families receiving the necessary support.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the warm and caring family environment. Children are confident, happy and content in the childminder's care. They interact with pleasure, laughing and chatting happily with the childminder and her family as they share books and complete a puzzle together. The childminder knows the children well and provides outings and activities which interest them and help develop their imaginations. Children enjoy playing with dolls and buggies as they

create scenarios pretending to 'go shopping' and care for their 'babies'. Children access crayons and pencils easily and enjoy drawing and creating their own designs. Regular visits to local groups provides opportunity for children to take part in a wider range of creative activities including paint, play dough and glue. The childminder engages well with the children, encouraging conversation and taking an active part in their play, whilst letting them make choices and develop their own ideas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's awareness of the wider world is gently encouraged by the ready access of books and play resources which reflect different cultures and disabilities. They also take part in activities and festivals at local toddler and childminding groups, such as celebrating Diwali through craft, stories and food. Children's behaviour is very good, they are kept happily and constructively occupied and the childminder anticipates their needs. This limits frustration and has a positive effect on the way they interact. The childminder uses praise readily, building children's self esteem as she affirms them. Children feel valued, the childminder gives them time and attention and involves them in conversation and they have a real sense of belonging.

Appropriate preparation before the placement starts, including slow settling in agreed with parents, helps to provide stability and continuity of care. The childminder has built strong relationships with parents and takes time to share with them daily. Written agreements generally underpin the professional relationship. Although parents are made aware that the childminder works closely with another childminder who is prepared to provide emergency cover if necessary, this has not been agreed in writing.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Space in the home is well organised to give room for children to play and access their toys. The childminder plans her week to provide outings and makes good use of local resources. The childminder is aware of her responsibility to ensure that Ofsted is informed of any changes to the household and to make sure that children are supervised at all times.

Documentation is well organised with all necessary information and formats being available for use, they are readily to hand and the childminder is confident in all procedures. The daily record of children's attendance is accurately maintained. Children's details are in place and parents' contact numbers taken on all outings.

However, the certificate of registration is not visibly displayed as required, this constitutes a breach of regulations.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

During the last inspection two recommendations were made regarding; full maintenance of the daily attendance register and developing her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

The childminder now clearly records the times of children's arrival and departure in the daily attendance register, and has obtained;

The childminder is now clear about her role and responsibility to ensure that any concerns regarding child protection are passed on to the local authority for immediate investigation, she is confident about local processes. The childminder has copies of guidance and procedures, contact numbers are readily to hand if required. This means that there is no risk of a delay in children and their families receiving the necessary support.

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):

- ensure that the certificate of registration is clearly displayed when minded children are on the premises

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