

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136778
Inspection date	04 February 2008
Inspector	Stephanie Graves
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 1986. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Mottingham, London. 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years of age on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder attends the local toddler groups and children's centre.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from effective hygiene procedures. This is because the childminder ensures all surfaces and equipment are regularly cleaned with appropriate antibacterial agent. She wears disposable gloves for nappy changing and follows clear hygiene practices regarding the safe

disposal of nappies. Children are provided with individual towels, flannels and bedding to reduce the risk of cross infection. They are well cared for if they become unwell. This is because the childminder ensures parents are notified if they become ill while in her care and children with infectious illnesses do not attend. These procedures help to prevent the spread of infection. Accident and medication records are in place along with written consent from parents for the childminder to seek emergency advice or treatment. This enables swift action to be taken in the event of a medical emergency.

Children enjoy being active, for instance, as they go on frequent outings to activity play groups or the park. The childminder supports very young children as they learn to walk, for example, by holding their hands as they move around or by playing music to encourage their mobility, balance and co-ordination. They enjoy action songs as the childminder moves their hands to clap, 'beep' a horn and demonstrate how wheels go 'round and round.' Children have opportunities to rest or sleep in comfortable surroundings, which helps to promote their sense of wellbeing.

Children have access to drinks at all times and enjoy healthy options regarding the food they eat. Parents currently provide main meals, although the childminder provides a sample menu which includes nutritious choices. These include cereal, fruit and yoghurt for breakfast, bread sticks or rice cakes for snacks, and meat, fish and pasta dishes with fresh vegetables for main meals and provide healthy options. Children learn about healthy eating and staying healthy through visits to play groups where they are taught about foods that are good to eat and those that are not. They also learn the importance of cleaning their teeth, which helps them learn about maintaining good health. Children's dietary needs are respected because the childminder works with parents to ensure their individual requirements are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are protected through effective procedures to keep them safe at all times. For instance the childminder has a written emergency plan and lost child policy to ensure children are well cared for in the event of an emergency situation. She risk assesses frequently to help ensure any potential risks are identified and reduced. The childminder ensures all hazardous equipment and materials are inaccessible, although the garden hose is currently accessible and could pose a risk of accidental injury. Written consents help to keep children safe and these include written permission from parents for outings and transporting in a vehicle. Children learn how to help keep themselves safe. For example, even very young children learning to walk are encouraged to do this in safety to ensure they do not fall or hurt themselves. The childminder practices her emergency evacuation procedure with the children, which helps them develop a sense of personal safety.

Children are well cared for through the procedures the childminder has in place to safeguard them at all times. For example, she gains written parental understanding of her duty to safeguard the children in her care. She has attended training and keeps up-to-date information to hand. She has a sound understanding of safeguarding issues and knows what to do in the event of a concern. The procedures in place help to ensure children's welfare remains the childminder's priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very settled and enjoy secure relationships with the childminder. This is because she has an exceptional understanding of their individual developmental needs, provides a good range of experiences and observes and assesses their progress. Very young children flourish in the care of the childminder. They confidently select their preferred toys and activities, which helps them become independent learners. They can access a very good range of resources all of which are suited to their needs and help them progress in all areas of learning. Children enjoy opportunities to cuddle up with the childminder, for instance when they need a sleep or when they want to play together. The childminder is extremely responsive to their needs as they settle together, for example, to look at a book. She reads with excellent expression, which captures children's interest. She uses sounds and words to aid understanding as she points out the illustrations. Children imitate sounds, such as, roaring like a lion and explore texture by feeling a 'soft' caterpillar. They attempt to turn pages, which demonstrates their interest in the story line. Children are inquisitive, for instance, as they work out how to use role play resources, build with blocks and clip magnetic letters to the fridge door. These activities are encouraged by the childminder and help to promote ongoing opportunities for exploring and investigating.

Children play meaningfully and enjoy communicating with the childminder. For example, they listen as the childminder shows them photographs of family members and talks about her son being at school. They repeat names as they look at the photographs and make connections. They enjoy role play, for instance, as they put baby dolls in a rocking chair and listen intently as the childminder uses a quiet voice to tell them about 'rocking the baby to sleep'. They access role play materials and observe and imitate as the childminder talks about making a cup of tea and having pizza, tomatoes and cake. The childminder encourages children to pretend to cut some cake and to watch as she puts the pieces of a role play till together and uses language, such as, 'click' as the pieces snap together. This effective input helps to develop children's early language skills as they make connections and represent real life scenarios through their play.

Overall the childminder consistently provides an excellent range of experiences which promote children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual abilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed and treated according to their individual needs and with equal concern. Young children are regularly acknowledged and affirmed, which helps them settle and develop a sense of belonging and self-assurance. Toys and resources promote positive images of diversity. These include puzzles, books, role play foods and dolls and help to develop children's understanding of the similarities and differences between themselves and others. Outings to local play groups also help children interact with different people and learn about the wider world. The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of ensuring that children feel safe and secure in her care. This is addressed through her settling in policy, which encourages parents to accompany children on several preparation visits to help them get to know the childminder and the childminding environment before they are left in her care. As a result children's individual needs and sense of wellbeing are well promoted.

Children benefit from effective behaviour management strategies which promote their welfare at all times. For instance, the childminder is a good role model who encourages and praises

good behaviour. Any behaviour issues are discussed with parents and children learn the childminder's house rules. This helps them understand the expected behaviour boundaries. Children benefit from an effective partnership with parents. This is because the childminder respects family values and traditions and strives to meet parents wishes. Written evidence shows that parents greatly value the service provided by the childminder and for the loving care provided for their children. Information is shared and the childminder takes positive steps towards ensuring parents are kept up to date with all policies and procedures. This helps to ensure children receive consistency of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for within a caring and well organised childminding environment. As a result they are confident, settled and have secure relationships with the childminder. All the required documents and records are in place, including daily attendance records, which show arrival and departure times for children. The childminder displays her registration certificate clearly and provides a good range of written information for parents. She is well qualified, keeps Ofsted informed of relevant matters and demonstrates a commitment to providing effective practice. Children's welfare, care and learning are therefore, promoted well. Although improvement is required in relation to the storage of the garden hose, the procedures in place and good supervision help to keep children safe and well cared for at all times. The range of written policies and procedures underpin the childminder's professional practice. 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 received one recommendation to ensure accident records were completed clearly. The recommendation has been addressed and accident records contain the required information.

The childminder has taken positive steps towards improving the service and ensuring children are safe and well cared for at all times.

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):

- ensure the garden hose is made safe or inaccessible to children.

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