

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159321
Inspection date	17 January 2008
Inspector	Lorna Lorraine Hall

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 2000. She lives with her husband, one adult child and a ten year old in Southfields, an area well served by both public transport and local facilities for children. The whole ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and access to the enclosed garden is through the kitchen.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five. The childminder attends the local parents/ toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted because the childminder has good hygiene practices that are consistently carried out. For example, the children have individual flannels to dry their hands and wet wipes are used when they are out.

Everyday the children have opportunities to enjoy the fresh air and engage in stimulating activities suitable to promote their physical development. They run around in the park and climb playground equipment.

Accidents to the children are dealt with appropriately because the childminder has a current first aid certificate and a complete first aid kit.

Proper systems are in place to record and administer prescribed medication and to seek emergency medical treatment or advice in the absence of the parents. Cross infection to the children is minimised because parents receive information about the care and exclusion of children who are ill.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals that are freshly prepared by the childminder. Cooking activities and fruit tasting at the local play group further promotes their understanding of healthy eating. Water and healthy snacks of fresh and dried fruits are available to the children throughout the session. Some parents provide food for their children; this is appropriately stored in the kitchen.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a bright and spacious environment. Toys are attractively laid out to enable the children to see at a glance what is available. Children can sit on the floor or sit at child size table and chairs to play with the toys. The organisation of space enables them to explore their environment and investigate before choosing to spend time at their chosen activity.

Children make progress in their development because they have access to a good selection of learning resources. The range of resources is suitable to sustain the children's interest for a long time and offers sufficient challenge.

Effective safety measures are in place to promote the children's safety indoors and outdoors. Parents give permission for their children to take part in outings and other activities such as taking pictures and to travel on public transport. Through discussion, they learn about road safety and those children who cannot walk are strapped in their buggies. Proper safety devices are fitted such as a stair gate. Within the home the childminder ensures that she complies with fire recommendations. Consequently, several smoke alarms are fitted and there is a fire blanket in the kitchen. During discussion, the childminder identified areas that could be used in an emergency evacuation. However, the procedure is not practised with the children so in an emergency the children would not know what to do. Systems are in place to ensure the safe departure of the children from the childminder's home.

Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder has a good understanding of child abuse and has good documentation with local contact telephone numbers should a concern arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are extremely happy and contented in their environment because they have access to good opportunities to learn through play. They know the routine and carry them out without prompt from adults. For example, they sit for a long time and carefully put the lego into a bag.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and ensures that activities are geared at the children's level. This allows the children to learn through play.

The children play imaginatively with home corner equipment and pretend to act out adults' roles such as cooking. Play with lego promotes their hand and eye co-ordination and their colour recognition. Through observation and interaction the childminder ensures that the children are fully supported to spend their time purposefully. Children relate well with the childminder and regularly approach her for a cuddle. She respects the children and ensures their needs are met. For example, the children use gestures to make their needs known and if the childminder is unsure about what they want she leads them to where they are pointing.

Weekly visit to local play and toddler groups promotes the children's social development and enables them to enjoy play on a wide scale.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that embraces other cultures. The children celebrate festivals such as Chinese New Year and there are lots of brightly coloured posters of people from around the world on display. The childminder works in partnership with parents to learn familiar words in the children's first language. This promotes a sense of belonging and their self esteem.

The childminder has a positive attitude with regards to caring for children and families who have learning difficulties and plans to do a sign language course.

Children are well behaved because they are actively engaged in play. The childminder has a good understanding of the reasons why children misbehave. For example, changes in family circumstances such as a new baby. Consequently, effective strategies are in place to manage the children's behaviour. The written behaviour policy states that the childminder works in partnership to ensure that behaviour is consistently managed.

The childminder enjoys a friendly and professional relationship with the parents of the minded children. Parents complete detailed written information about their children and other members of the family. The information is used to adapt the service to suit individual needs. The childminder regularly asks the parents if they are happy with the service they receive. Time is made at the end of the day to discuss the day's activities with parents when they come to collect their children. A profile of the children's art work is kept throughout the year and is beautifully presented to the parents at Christmas. Parents receive information about Ofsted's complaints procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a caring environment where they are fully supported to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution because their days are well planned.

The childminder has strong links with the Early Years Childcare Partnership and attends training when she can. She regularly meets up with other childminders to discuss practice issues and to

keep up-to-date with changes in her field of work. Her association with the local childminding group entitles her to use local resources such as the scrap scheme.

Records on the children are up-to-date, confidential and appropriately stored.

The childminder confirmed that all adults in the house hold completed approved vetting procedures as part of her registration. However, her teenage son that turned sixteen since her registration has not completed approved vetting procedures.

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 meet one recommendation; relocate the nappy changing facility to reduce the risk of cross contamination. Good progress has been made to remove the nappy changing facility to improve the outcome for 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 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):

- practise the emergency escape plan with the children
- ensure that persons over sixteen years living in the household complete approved vetting procedures

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