

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY232710 |
| Inspection date | 15 February 2008 |
| Inspector | Amanda Gill |
| 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 December 2002. She is registered to provide care for no more than four children under eight years; of these, not more than two may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one year at any one time and this is to be decreased to three children under eight years; of these not more than two may be under five and of these not more than one may be under one. At present the childminder has six children on roll and of these three are under the age of eight. The childminder lives on the premises with her husband and three children aged seven years, five years and twenty two months.

The registered premises is a three bedroom house with a large lounge, kitchen diner and downstairs cloakroom as well as a first floor bathroom. There is an enclosed garden to the rear of the house. The master bedroom is not registered for use and is inaccessible to minded children. The house is on a main road in a residential area within easy access of Rainham centre. The family has pet goldfish and three cats. No one in the household smokes.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through reinforced daily routines. They know, for example, that by washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating they will be both clean and healthy. The childminder has a comprehensive first aid kit and a separate one for taking on outings which ensures that children are kept healthy.

Children's good health is suitably promoted and they are protected from infection as the childminder is well informed about children's health matters. She is aware of appropriate exclusion times for children when they have a contagious illness and agrees all measures with parents prior to minding. The childminder is confident in her ability to deal with minor accidents or medical emergencies and has a current first aid certificate. Written consent, accident and medication records are in place. Accidents to children in the childminder's care are recorded well, however, the childminder does not record any pre-existing injuries or accidents that have occurred away from the home.

The childminder follows children's individual routines for eating and sleeping. This ensures continuity of care and contributes to emotional well-being. Children are provided with nutritious and healthy meals and snacks and the childminder ensures she meets the children's individual dietary requirements by discussing these with parents. The childminder readily provides drinks of water, squash and milk throughout the day to prevent dehydration.

All children have access to physical play through the wide range of resources the childminder provides, mainly outside in the garden. They also make regular visits to the park which promotes their physical well being. They are all able to rest and be active, according to their needs, in the home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and well maintained environment. The childminder provides an environment that is warm, friendly and homely. Children are at ease and well settled. Children are able to freely access the toys and resources. Resources on offer are in good repair and the childminder regularly wash toys to ensure they are hygienic. They are stimulating, fun and provide sufficient challenge. The childminder rotates the toys regularly to maintain children's interest.

Children use a wide range of safe and developmentally suitable resources which are well organised and easily accessible to encourage independence. The childminder reinforces safe practices to the children, for example, by explaining to them using appropriate language when they are doing something potentially dangerous. She encourages children to clear up after themselves so that they are not at risk of tripping or hurting themselves. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. They have practised a fire drill so that they know how to escape in case of an emergency.

The childminder has taken steps to minimise possible hazards around the home. For example, all cleaning materials are kept inaccessible to children and stair gates are used at the top of the stairs to ensure children are kept within areas of the home they are allowed. To minimise

hazards in the event of a fire, smoke alarms have been fitted to both floors of the home and a fire blanket and extinguisher have been fitted in the kitchen

Children are well protected. The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and the appropriate procedures to follow if she has any concerns. These are discussed with parents prior to minding to ensure that they are kept well informed

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the care of the childminder. They receive lots of attention and benefit from interaction from the childminder while they play. Children develop confidence and self-esteem due to the secure and caring relationships the childminder has built with them and their parents. She talks to the children enthusiastically whilst they play and they respond positively with lots of conversation appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children clearly feel good about themselves as they receive praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements. They show great interest in what they are doing as the activities provided by the childminder are varied and stimulating. For example, children enjoy decorating African masks from a number of different materials and take pride when the childminder displays their masks on the wall for everyone to see.

Children have good opportunities for both their spontaneous play and those activities planned by the childminder such as craft activities. Children are motivated because they enjoy what they do and have a range of resources readily available to them to develop their own games and ideas. Children are given lots of praise and encouragement which also fosters their self-esteem, promotes a positive attitude to learning and develops their confidence. For example, lots of praise was given as the children helped the childminder to tidy up and lay the table for lunch.

There is a good balance of free play and adult directed activities on offer. Children play well together and the childminder encourages them to develop an understanding of sharing, taking turns and securing relationships with their peers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and respect. The childminder uses effective methods for managing behaviour, this helps children to understand the needs of others. She considers it important for children to receive praise for positive behaviour, such as helping to tidy up. The childminder promotes positive behaviour, she describes appropriate strategies to ensure she manages behaviour consistently and positively.

The childminder has a good understanding of equality issues. Children develop a positive awareness of the diverse community they live in from the range of resources they play with. The childminder has no experience of caring for children with a disability or learning difficulty. She demonstrates a positive attitude towards caring for children with a disability. She is aware of the importance of working closely with parents, and would ask parents for a routine of care and discuss issues with professionals involved in the child's care.

Children benefit from the secure informal relationships between the childminder and their parents enabling them to settle well and feel self assured. Detailed information is exchanged

verbally, including details about what children have eaten, activities they have been involved in and outings ensuring parents are informed about what their child has been involved in on a daily basis to ensure continuity of care. The childminder has a well written complaints procedure in place. The childminder ensures parents are made aware of the complaints procedure and receive information from the childminder on how to make a complaint, including details of the regulator. This supports children's individual needs, ensures children receive consistent care, and helps them feel a sense of security and belonging.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children receive good support from the childminder. She interacts positively with them and knows them well, helping them to feel secure and confident. The environment is well organised and child friendly. Children are happy and aware of their surroundings. They participate in a clear routine which is planned to meet their individual needs of rest, mealtimes and outings. Parents are informed about their child's day through informal verbal discussions. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

The childminder has an understanding of the National Standards for Childminding, and required policies and procedures are implemented. The childminder is aware of some of the circumstances that must be reported to Ofsted but failed to notify of the birth of her third child. This is a significant change in personal circumstances and affects the number of children allowed to be cared for in the childminder's home. This is a breach in criteria set in the National Standards for childminding.

The childminder's procedures are shared with parents to keep them informed about their child. This contributes to the continuity in the children's care. The childminder has the legally required records in place to support the well-being of the children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At her last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that the cat food is inaccessible to children. The childminder now stores all pet food in the laundry room so that it is inaccessible to children at all times. The childminder also agreed to ensure that the rear end of the garden is inaccessible to children at all times. A fence has been built to divide the garden so that children do not have access to the bottom of the garden. These improvements ensures the safety and well-being of the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 all existing injuries or accidents away from the home are recorded
- ensure Ofsted are notified about any changes to personal circumstances or significant events

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