



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139847
Inspection date	20 October 2005
Inspector	Daphne Jane Brown

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 has been registered for 14 years. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in a semi-detached house close to Cheam town centre. The house is in a residential area with easy access to local facilities. The downstairs rooms are used for minding, there is an upstairs toilet and bathroom and bedrooms may be used for sleep. There is also a fully enclosed back garden.

The childminder is currently minding three children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to a local pre-school and attends local parent and toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy nutritious meals provided by the parents. This is reinforced by the childminder who has completed a basic health and hygiene course, and offers healthy snacks, such as fruit and raisins. This ensures children learn about a balanced diet. Children also receive food which meets the children's needs as the childminder is knowledgeable about their allergies and dietary needs.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children are protected against cross infection as good hand washing procedures are in place with the childminder providing separate hand towels for each minded child. Children are reminded by the childminder to wash their hands before snack and meal times to prevent illness. The Childminder also informs parents of children who become ill to prevent the spread of sickness to other minded children. The childminder keeps precise and up to date medication records which ensures that children receive the correct dosage.

The children enjoy regular exercise outside with visits to local parks, playgrounds and walking to pre-school. This helps the children develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for by the childminder in a safe and child orientated environment. Hazards have been identified and minimised such as using safety catches to prevent children from accessing cleaning materials which could be harmful to the children. Children are supervised well and made aware of dangers such as being careful with scissors when cutting. Children are secure within the home and garden as it is fully fenced and hazards such as drains have been covered to prevent accidents.

To ensure children's safety is a priority the childminder has displayed written procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. There is also available an 'emergency bag' packed in case they all need to evacuate including contact details for parents, thus ensuring children's safety. However the fire blanket is not as accessible as it could be.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documents in place. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures meaning that children's safety is a priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and well settled at the childminder's house. They are confident and chat amicably with the childminder developing their language skills. Children relate well to each other and are beginning to learn how to share, supported by the childminder's consistent praise and encouragement.

Children enjoy a good variety of activities both at home and at local groups which helps support their learning and development. Children are given the opportunity to select their own resources and toys encouraging their independence. Children learn about shapes, letters, numbers and different celebrations such as Christmas, Chinese New Year and St Patrick's Day as the childminder uses a variety of craft activities to introduce them.

All children spend their time purposefully as the childminder provides a selection of activities which are age appropriate and of interest to the children. The children's routines are adhered to allowing times for play, meals and rest thus helping the children feel settled and supported.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave very well. They are treated with respect helping them feel good about themselves. Children respond well to consistent praise and encouragement which encourages good behaviour.

Children are treated as individuals and cared for accordingly. Children learn about diversity and different cultures through the childminder's growing resources, such as books and small world characters. Regular outings means that children learn about the world and people around them. The childminder has had some experience in caring for children with special needs and understands the importance in building positive and trusting relationships with parents ensuring that all children receive the care they need. A system for recording complaints is not in place which would ensure that children are cared for according to their parent's wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. This means they are confident and happy. The childminder ensures regulatory documents are up to date and stored confidentially. She shares information with parents to keep them well informed. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

The childminder has a very positive attitude towards training allowing her to constantly evaluate and improve on the care and learning opportunities she provides for the children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has addressed most of the recommendations made. All members of the household have Criminal Record Bureau checks to ensure all children are being cared for in a safe household. The childminder has completed a First Aid course for children and the drain in the garden now has a cover thus reducing the risk of accidents. Children's health is better promoted as the childminder has introduced separate hand towels to prevent cross infection. The childminder has obtained the Government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused - Summary' and is aware of procedures to follow if she suspects a child is at risk thus making the children's safety her first priority. Further resources have been purchased to ensure children learn about different cultures, ethnicity, gender and disability. The fire blanket needs to be re-mounted following redecoration of the kitchen.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

There are no complaints to report.

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 there is a system in place for recording complaints
- ensure the fire blanket is re-mounted in the kitchen.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk