



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139865
Inspection date	09 November 2005
Inspector	Sue Boylan
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 2001. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 5 and 2 years in the London Borough of Sutton. The whole of the ground floor, two bedrooms and the bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder walks to a local school to take and collect children and takes the children to the park.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding eight children all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The family have a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The environment is clean and tidy where children receive good support to develop appropriate personal hygiene; for example, washing their hands after using the toilet and before a meal. There are effective health and hygiene procedures in place to prevent children from being at risk from cross contamination, such as use of individual towels to dry their hands and separate mats for nappy changing. The childminder protects children's health by ensuring parents are aware she will not care for any child who has an infectious illness.

The childminder provides all food, freshly prepared and ensures most of the diet is healthy and nutritious. Fruit and vegetables are part of the menu on a daily basis which promotes children's understanding of what is good for you to eat. However, the snack after school consists of a whole or half packet of crisps depending on whether the children are staying to dinner. This does not offer variety and support healthy food options.

Children participate in a range of activities to extend their physical skills and learn about a healthy life style. They have access to a garden, walk to and from school every day and go to the park regularly. Children can climb, swing, practise ball skills and generally let off some steam when they come out of school. There are resources available to improve fine motor development and children enjoy playing with Knex, drawing and cutting with zigzag scissors.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a safe, child orientated environment. This allows them to move around freely and select resources that are in good condition and appropriate for the age of children minded. The childminder takes effective steps to reduce hazards. For instance, safety gates restrict access to upstairs and the kitchen, older children know they have to shut the gate if they go through. The childminder has produced some written safety policies including lost and uncollected child and she is vigilant in her supervision of the children which ensures their safety at all times. There are very good fire safety precautions in place which means the risk to children being exposed to fire is minimal; for example, the childminder talks to the children every four months so they are familiar with the emergency escape plan, The extent of the discussion will vary depending on the age and understanding of the child.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has very good knowledge of child protection. She knows who to contact if there any concerns or suspects a child is being abused or neglected. The childminder is currently undertaking a

correspondence course run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to update and extend her knowledge in child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the warm and caring approach of the childminder. They are settled and secure and feel very much at home. Children have good relationships with each other, the childminder and her own children and enjoy coming to play and be part of the family. For example, when the childminder's daughter was born, they helped to feed and look after her, which fosters a sense of belonging. Children like socialising and benefit from the different ages attending because they can help and learn from each other.

The children are valued as individuals, they know the routine well and there is good opportunity to be active and quiet as well as relax after school. Children's birthdays are celebrated with the childminder making a special cake. Children take part in a variety of activities to support their development which are based around their needs and choice, such as decorating cakes, collecting leaves in Autumn and playing the weather game. There are lots of good opportunities for children to pursue their own play, such as, shopping with the baby in the pram, kung-fu and designing a model using a variety of construction materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and relaxed with the childminder and feel able to ask for help with an activity or for a drink. The routine is structured with flexibility so children know what to expect on a daily basis. Children are well behaved because of the good relationship fostered. The childminder's calm approach and use of praise and encouragement build's children's self-esteem. Children are very aware of the local community and enjoy going shopping and helping to find the food on the list. They go regularly to the local school and have found when it is their turn to start, the environment and teachers are familiar which helps in the settling process. At Christmas the childminder takes the children to the school fete where they enjoy the chance to spend some money and buy some presents. The childminder has a positive approach towards caring for children with a range of different needs and abilities.

Partnership with parents is very good. The childminder is friendly, supportive and flexible. She provides information to parents on a daily basis which contributes effectively towards children's wellbeing.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The day is well planned and space is organised appropriately so children can easily access all the areas used for childminding. All the required records are maintained which contributes to children's safety, health and wellbeing. The childminder has additional written policies and procedures which guide her in the daily practice with the children and parents can be clear about the care offered. The first aid qualification expired in May 2005. But the childminder has taken steps to take part in the next available course. She has information about the Birth to Three Matters framework and is able to provide appropriate care and stimulation for children under three years. There are effective procedures in place so children will not be left with unvetted people. In the event of an emergency with parent's agreement the childminder's mother will help out. Overall 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 improve fire safety precautions and documentation. Smoke alarms are now fitted on both floors of the house and children are familiar with the emergency escape plan. Parents provide written consent for the childminder to seek emergency medical assistance so treatment will not be delayed. The attendance record provides information that parents sign to confirm the hours and times minded. The childminder has obtained a copy of the Area Child Protection Committee Guidelines so she knows who to contact if she concerns a child is being abused or neglected.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

The childminder 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):

- provide snacks that promote children's understanding of food that is good for you

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