



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	109998
Inspection date	26 October 2005
Inspector	Sonia Steele

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 outstanding. 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 1992. She lives with her husband and grown-up son in a 3 bedroom terraced house in the Borough of Greenwich. All areas of the house are available for childminding. The childminder currently cares for 3 children. She is not registered to provide overnight care. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and belongs to her local network.

She is registered to provide care for six children under eight years of whom not more than three may be under five years and of these, not more than one may be under one year. At present the childminder is minding two children under eight years - a

baby and a three-year-old - and one over eight. She has completed her NVQ level 3.

She lives within easy walking distance of the local shops and bus routes. There is a fully enclosed back garden available for outside play.

The family do not have any pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home. Health and hygiene is promoted in a very effective way for the children. The childminder demonstrates and explains good practices to the children by providing a child size paper towel dispenser, singing songs about washing hands and displaying posters about hygiene.

The childminder has all the necessary equipment for babies and shows good practices when dealing with them such washing her hands after dealing with each child.

Children's special dietary and health needs are discussed sensitively by the minder with parents to ensure that they are given the correct diet. A well balanced menu is provided and shown to parents

Children enjoy meals that are freshly prepared and cooked by the childminder who has a very good knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition. The children are introduced to a range of new foods with permission from parents. This includes fruit of exotic varieties, as part of their diet. They receive drinks and snacks throughout the day. The childminder makes this fun by having children smell and taste fruit.

There is a comprehensive system for recording health and medical needs which is very efficient and ensures the well being of each child.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very clean, and well maintained environment both indoors and outdoors.

The childminder skilfully plans and supports activities to extend children's language by asking questions and giving new information. Toys set out for the children are on tables and in containers and at their height. They are able to access the resources independently. There is a wonderful display of children's work demonstrating their creativity. Positive interaction was observed between the minder and children.

The environment is safe both indoors and outdoors. Fire safety equipment is

available and once a month emergency evacuation procedures are practised. Safety gates are placed appropriately . There is a smoke alarm. Toys and equipment are of a very high quality they are clean and in excellent condition. Children are taught the value in looking after toys and equipment. The childminder demonstrates to the children how to use the toys and helps them to tidy them away.

Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect because the childminder recently updated her child protection knowledge. The childminder is fully aware of what steps to take if she is concerned about a child or if allegations are made about her or a member of her family.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from an excellent, well organised play space with an abundance of resources and activities that promotes learning, discovery, imagination and creativity. Toys and resources are at children's height and are age appropriate. Children participate in activities that are well planned, exciting and creative. Children are able to develop a high level of independence through selecting resources. They are happy and confident.

The play area is organised to cater for the children's interests and stages of learning. Children show confidence when asking for toys in which they are no longer interested to be changed. Children gain a good awareness of numbers, colours, letters during their play and are praised and encouraged in this area of learning. Toys and play equipment are in excellent condition and are interesting, colourful and educational. Children enjoy a stimulating range of activities that meet their individual needs and extend their learning. This is drawn from the childminder's wealth of childcare experience, her recent training in NVQ Level 3 childcare course and from good observation and assessment of the children in her care.

Children socialise well with others through attending a variety of drop-in groups, toy library and are provided with good opportunities to learn about the natural world as they are taken to places of interest such as the local farm and parks. At the time of the inspection the children were given the opportunity to visit the park and explore living things such as leaves, finding slugs, worms, examined a broken umbrella, broken path and car crash.

The childminder has increased her childcare knowledge by attending Birth to three matters training which means the children benefit from a high quality range of stimulating toys and equipment. She also interacts with the children by repeating words, singing nursery rhymes and responding to the children's gestures. Children are happy and comfortable in the presence of other adults. The childminder regularly attends play groups and there are other outings. The childminder provides for parents photographic evidence of the children enjoying their day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children have access to a splendid selection of play equipment that promotes positive images of diversity. They have the opportunity to celebrate different culture's, festivals which helps their learning about the wider world and understanding of others. The childminder provides an excellent range of books, play materials and resources promoting equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder's approach to her work is an inspiration. She provides an example of the best possible practice as a child carer and, amongst other things, this gives children a strong sense of confidence and self-esteem.

Although the childminder is not at present looking after any children with special needs she is able to use knowledge gained from her NVQ level 3 course to discuss how she would adapt her resources to meet the needs of all the children as this became necessary. The childminder is booked to attend a special needs training course.

Children are set clear and consistent boundaries. Their behaviour is managed in various ways depending on the child's age and understanding. The childminder makes sure she speaks often and freely with parents in order to be aware of any changes to the children's home circumstances. Children's changing moods are understood by the childminder and acknowledged by reacting positively through offering alternative toys or giving clear explanations. This prevents negative behaviour and encourages children to share.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has with parents. Their learning and development is discussed with the parents daily with diaries and policies compiled by the childminder for each child.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder is meeting the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children are well protected in the childminder's well organised home. Its centre is the conservatory which is both an Aladdin's cave full of enchanting toys and resources covering all areas of children's development and an educational complete with a brilliant selection of books drawn from many cultures . The childminder has used her eighteen years of childcare experience and a fertile imagination to create an environment which is a delight to see and a thrill for children to experience.

Each day is made exciting and enjoyable. There are well organised and carefully thought out routines, detailed weekly activities and operational plans.

There is a very efficient administrative system underpinning the whole organisation. It includes comprehensive documentation, records, policies and procedures. A daily diary for all the children gives parents details of visits. The childminder is currently updating her policies and procedures to provide an even more professional approach

to her childminding business.

Improvements since the last inspection

Although the childminder is not at present looking after any children with special needs she was able to use the knowledge she gained from her NVQ level 3 course to discuss how she would adapt her resources to meet the needs of all the children as this became necessary. The childminder is booked to attend a special needs training course in October 2005.

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 have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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