



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137939
Inspection date	06 September 2005
Inspector	Lindsay Ann Farenden

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 since 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged 14, 9, years. They live in house in the London Borough of Sutton, close to local shops and schools. All areas of the house are used for childminding except for the main bedroom. The garden is used for children's play under supervision.

The family have a dog, three cats, guinea pigs, two rabbits, two gerbils. There are also fish kept in a covered tank.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is

registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding three children on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm home where they are helped to learn about good hygiene practise, such as washing hands before meals, after using the toilet and after touching the pets. The childminder herself demonstrates good hygiene awareness, when preparing foods and during nappy changing to reduce the risk of cross contamination.

Children are provided with nutritious meals and snacks which help them develop healthy eating habits from a young age. Children learn about healthy eating habits because the childminder talks to them about why foods are better for you than others. For example whole meal bread is better for you than white bread, sugar is not good for your teeth. To encourage children's fondness of fruit, it is available for them at all times and cooking activities include making fruit salads for their tea. Children are provided with ample drinks, which they can access at all times, to ensure they do not get dehydrated or thirsty. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children are provided with meals, which they enjoy and meet specific dietary needs.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have opportunities to ride bikes, climb and slide, crawl through tunnels in the garden and the toddler group, which helps them to develop control of their bodies. Children benefit from being taken on walks, visiting parks on a regular basis, where they are able to run, use swings and use large climbing equipment, play ball games to promote their physical skills and receive plenty of fresh air and exercise. Children have time to relax as well as be active, according to their needs.

The childminder keeps documentation to record accidents and any medication given and this ensures their health needs are met and information is shared with the parents. She holds a current first aid certificate, which means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. However children are not fully protected in an medical emergency situation, because the childminder, has not requested written parental consent for emergency medical treatment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are able to move around the home safely because the childminder has taken action to minimise risks, by making hazardous items inaccessible to them. This means they are able to move around safely and independently. Children are well supervised throughout the day, due to the appropriate organisation of the childminder and the layout of the areas used for childminding.

Children's welfare is protected by the childminder who has attended child protection training, so is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and the correct procedures to follow should she have any concerns. The childminder reduces the risks of accidents outside the home, because she is conscientious about ensuring children are safe on outings. For example she talks to children about looking before crossing the road and about crossing at the green man. She explains to children you must wait at the zebra crossing until the cars have stopped. Uses reins with younger children when walking and appropriate restraints when children are in the vehicle. For children safety, the childminder talks to children about not talking to strangers and what to do if they get lost.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe because the childminder explains to them that they need to hold onto the banister when going up and down the stairs and hold on when using the slide. To protect children all fire equipment is fitted appropriately, the smoke alarms are in working order and the childminder has written fire evacuation procedures in place. Children and the childminder have a good understanding of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire because these are regularly practised.

Children benefit from a good range of clean, safe toys and resources appropriate to their ages, which are set out for them to freely access and are rotated so children have a variety of play resources throughout the day which meet their needs. The childminder buys new toys on a regular basis, so children are able to access resources, which are up to date in the toy world.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's care needs are met well, as the childminder takes steps to ensure their daily routines are continued and their dietary needs known. The children are settled and confident within the childminders home and relate well to her, because she plays with them and shows children warmth and affection, which contribute to their sense of belonging.

Children benefit from the childminder's organization of the play materials to meet children's individual developmental needs, as a result they spend their time purposefully and are motivated to play and enjoy choosing from a variety of toys which interest them. They use their imagination well, such as playing with play people in the dolls house. Children are helped to learn through every routine, such as talking about different coloured bricks as they play with them and counting when walking down the stairs. Children enjoy a wide range of activities in the home which contribute to their creativity, such as drawing, moulding and rolling play dough, sand play, and a wide variety of painting and sticking activities, which include glass painting and making peg dolls.

Children gain social skills from attending toddler groups, where they have opportunities to meet other children and join in activities, such as arts and crafts, singing and story times, access a different variety of toys, play on the bouncy castle, use climbing frames, slides and bikes, all of which contributes to their enjoyment,

creativity and enhances their all round development.

To extend children's interest the childminding takes children on regular outing. For example to the farm, where they are able to see real large and small animals, touch and feed them and have opportunities for pony rides. Other outings include bowling, visiting parks to feed the ducks, playing outdoor games and using large park play equipment. Children visit the library on a regular basis to develop their interest in books and use computers to develop their IT skills.

To benefit younger children, the childminder intends to attend training on Birth to three matters.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are met well as the childminder asks parents to fill in a booklet all about their child, which gives her information about the child's daily routines, dietary needs, food likes and dislikes. For consistency of care the childminder follows their normal routine as discussed with their parents. Information is shared with parents on a daily basis, about their child's day and dietary needs. The childminder keeps a photo record of activities and outings which the children do and of creative activities which they have done to share with parents on a regular basis and to show prospective parents.

Regular trips out of the home to parks, toddler groups and the library introduce children to the local community. Children have opportunities to increase their awareness of diversity through discussions about different culture celebrations and tasting of different foods. For example at Chinese New Year the children used chop sticks to eat a Chinese meal and the childminder talked to the children about the Chinese horoscope calendar. Children are provided with a good range of resources reflecting positive anti-discriminatory images, which are integrated into every day play.

The childminders use of praise to reinforce positive behaviour contributes towards children's high level of self esteem. They play and behave well and are encouraged to share toys and join in group activities.

The childminder has attended training on Autism and has experience of caring for children with special needs. In order to meet their needs, she researched information on the condition and worked closely with the parents and other agencies.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and secure in a well organised home, which help them gain confidence and be independent. The environment is laid out to make the most of space and maximise children's play opportunities for them to play freely and safely. Children receive the childminder's full attention, as she dedicates her time with the children when they are present. The childminder makes appropriate use of contracts

and child information booklet to invite discussions with parents about their child's individual needs. She uses this information to promote the welfare and care of the children. Policies and procedures are shared with parents and used effectively to promote the welfare of the children within the setting. Most required records are kept, which contribute to children's health, safety and well being. Information is regularly shared with parents to keep them informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to the continuity in children's care. The childminder attends regular training courses to update her childcare knowledge, which benefits the children's overall care and learning. The setting meets the needs of the range of children of whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved children's safety. She has removed the carousel washing line to prevent children hurting themselves on it. The children now practice the emergency evacuation procedures with the childminder on a regular basis, which helps them become familiar with the routine in the event of a fire.

Complaints since the last inspection

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):

- request parental permission to seek any emergency medical advice or treatment

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