



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139884
Inspection date	31 October 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 1988. She lives with her husband, 1 adult child and 2 children aged 17 and 14 years in the London Borough of Sutton. The whole of the ground floor, the main bedroom and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder walks to school to take and collect children. She attends a parent and toddler group, childminder's drop-in and takes the children to the park and library.

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

The family have a pet Yorkshire Terrier dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The environment is clean and tidy and children receive good support to develop appropriate personal hygiene, for example, washing their hands after using the toilet and before a meal. Children use anti-bacterial gel to clean their hands with when out which contributes towards continuing awareness of good hygiene. Children's health is protected as the childminder will not mind children who have an infectious illness and she acts appropriately if a child shows symptoms of a potential serious illness such as meningitis. There are effective procedures in place to prevent children from being at risk from cross contamination, for example, having individual bed linen and changing mats.

Parents provide most of the food for children which ensures individual dietary needs are met. Food is stored appropriately to prevent spoiling. Children know when they are thirsty and have access to drinks at all times.

Children participate in a range of activities to extend their physical skills and learn about a healthy life style. They have good access to the well equipped garden, walk to and from school and go to the park on a regular basis. Activities to improve fine motor skills are planned almost daily and include cutting, puzzles and drawing.

The childminder follows babies individual routines for sleeping and eating which ensures continuity of care and contributes to their physical well-being. Babies are learning to feed themselves to encourage independence and choice.

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, which allows them to move around freely and self select resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder takes effective steps to reduce hazards. For instance she makes sure children do not have access to the stairs unless supervised and only uses the back burners of the stove if cooking. There are very good fire safety precautions in place which means the risk to children being exposed to a fire is minimal. They practice the evacuation plan on regular basis so they are familiar with the procedure and will be able to act quickly in an emergency. Children are taught to keep themselves safe, for example, just before going out, they are reminded to stop before drive ways as drivers reverse their cars out onto the street without always looking.

Children's welfare is safe guarded because the childminder has very good knowledge of child protection. She knows who to contact if there any concerns or suspicions a child is being abused or neglected. There are very good procedures in place to

protect children from people not vetted. In the event of an emergency children will be left in the care of one of two named registered childminders they are familiar with.

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 secure and settled in the environment and feel very much at home. Children have good relationships with the childminder who is responsive to individual needs and joins in with their play, for example, playing "peek-a-boo" and "round and round the garden". The childminder is affectionate with the children and ensures they all have time to sit on her lap and have a cuddle particularly when they first wake up.

Children take part in a variety of activities to support their development, which are based around their needs and choice, such as making masks for Halloween, collecting leaves and playing hairdressers. They benefit from regular outings, for example, going to the park and to meet their friends at the toddler group. The childminder likes to extend their learning by planning trips to places such as Tilgate park and Godstone Farm. Children enjoy listening to stories and love going to the library to choose books and participate in story time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and their individual needs are met because they follow their normal routine as discussed with parents. Children are beginning to develop confidence and positive self-esteem through constant praise and encouragement. The childminder is providing some opportunities for children to appreciate and understand about today's diverse society through resources such as small world play. However sometimes when questioned by children about differences in people the childminder is not always able to extend their learning, for example, "why is that lady small". The childminder has a positive approach towards caring for children with range of different needs and abilities.

Appropriate strategies help children understand right from wrong. They play well together learning important social skills such as taking turns and sharing. The childminder encourages partnership with parents, she is friendly and supportive and ensures parents receive appropriate information about their child which contributes to consistent care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The day is well planned allowing children to take part in both quiet and active play. The childminder is flexible in her approach which ensure children's individual needs are met and they have opportunities to organise their own games. She has a good

understanding of the Birth to three matters framework so she is able to provide appropriate care and stimulation that promotes all aspects of the babies development, for example, learning to communicate and build relationships. Space is organised well and children are able to easily access all the areas used for childminding, they particularly enjoy being able to go into the garden when they arrive back after school. There are effective procedures to ensure children will not be left with unvetted people. The childminder keeps all the required records that contribute to the children's health, safety and well-being. Parents are given some additional written information about behaviour management which ensures consistency in care. 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 was asked to improve fire safety precautions. She has written a fire escape plan and practices with the children at regular intervals so they are familiar with the procedure and will evacuate the premises quickly and safely.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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 children have an appropriate range of activities, resources that promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the
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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