

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401737
Inspection date	06 August 2008
Inspector	Beverly Hallett
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 satisfactory. 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 two adult children aged 17 and 20 years in the New Eltham area of the London Borough of Greenwich. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local library and parks. The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for six children and there is currently one child on roll, who attends part time. No children were present during the inspection.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of how children's health and well-being is promoted. She has suitable arrangements in place to protect children from the spread of infection. She supports and encourages children in appropriate hygiene routines, such as washing hands before and after eating, and keeps the home suitably clean and tidy.

The childminder has all necessary documentation in place for the recording of accidents and medication, therefore, children's health is supported. The childminder ensures her first aid knowledge is up to date and as a result, she is able to provide children with appropriate care in the event of an accident.

Children have a very large, child-friendly garden in which to play, and the childminder offers additional physical opportunities by taking children to local parks to ensure they have plenty of opportunity for fresh air and exercise.

The childminder demonstrated an appropriate understanding of the importance of providing children with well balanced and nutritious meals which are prepared from fresh ingredients. Parents provide the main meals for babies who are not yet fully weaned, but the childminder offers children healthy snacks such as yoghurt and fruit to supplement this.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a suitably maintained and organised home environment which is bright, clean and welcoming for children. The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of how to ensure children's safety. She has carefully risk assessed her home and successfully minimised risks to children. For example, safety gates are used effectively, and glass surfaces are covered with safety film.

Toys and activities are suitably organised in the main living room and dining room where they are stored on shelves and in toy boxes at child height. This enables children to select toys and resources for themselves in safety.

The childminder is able to protect children in her care because she has a sound understanding of the local procedures for safeguarding children and is aware of her responsibility to refer any concerns she may have about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a suitable range of toys and resources which are organised in a way which helps to promote children's free choice. The childminder talks about organising outings in the local area, for example, to parks or to the library. She describes how she encourages children's creativity by providing opportunities for pretend play and by offering activities such as colouring, painting and play dough.

The childminder explains how she extends children's learning by offering activities outside the home, for example, using local mother and toddler groups and locally run music and dance sessions.

The childminder describes how she talks to children, explaining things and encouraging their language development. Also, how she enjoys spending time playing with children, extending their learning by sharing stories and songs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has clear arrangements in place for finding out about children's individual needs. In discussion the childminder explains how she gains information about children's family backgrounds with parents and finds out what children are interested in at the beginning of all arrangements. Some toys and equipment which offer children positive images of today's diverse society are provided, however, these are minimal and do not reflect the wide range of backgrounds which children may come from or see in their local community.

The childminder has professional experience of working with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, she feels that she would be able to offer appropriate care, and would be confident in working with parents to meet any child's individual needs.

Through discussion the childminder showed a sound knowledge of behaviour management, giving examples of how she would deal with incidents involving children at different stages of development and understanding.

The childminder explains how she has formed effective partnerships with parents by sharing and exchanging information about children's individual needs on a regular, if not daily, basis. This supports good continuity of care for children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

There were no children present when the inspection took place, however, evidence gathered through discussion, observation of the childminder's home and records and other documents available suggests that the standard of care offered is satisfactory.

The childminder is very experienced and shows her commitment to providing quality childcare by the way she has organised her home and daily routine to ensure children needs and interests are catered for.

A suitable range of documents, policies and procedures support the safe and efficient management of the practice and shares information with parents to ensure consistency of care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve children's safety by ensuring appropriate checks were carried out on all adult members of the household and ensuring appropriate safety and fire equipment was in place. The childminder has carried out risk assessments on the new premises and ensured all safety equipment is appropriately in place,

in addition, all adults in the household have been appropriately checked, therefore, children's safety is ensured.

The childminder was also asked to increase the range of materials which reflect positive images of the wider world. Although some equipment is now in place, this is still minimal and does not reflect all of the minority groups which children may encounter or belong to. Therefore, a recommendation to continue to improve in this area has been made as part of this inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- continue to supplement play materials and activities to ensure they reflect positive images of the wider world

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk