

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY347146
Inspection date 08 April 2008
Inspector Christine Lynne Hodge

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 January 2007. She lives with her two children aged 15 years and 11 years in a first floor maisonette in Abbeywood, in the London Borough of Greenwich. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes together with the first floor bathroom.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding two children under five years and one school age child who is seven years old. She sometimes works with an assistant, when her grown up daughter is home from university.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and relax in clean, homely surroundings. The childminder has suitable nappy changing procedures in place and helps children to learn about the importance of washing their hands after toileting and before meal times. This together with her verbal policy for excluding children who are unwell helps to protect children from germs and cross infection. Accidents and medication records are appropriately maintained. The childminder's current first aid qualification together with her first aid box and written consent to seek medical treatment ensures that children can receive appropriate care in the event of an emergency. Children can sleep and rest when required. They benefit from regular fresh air and exercise as the childminder walks out with them several times a week to the park and toddler groups. They have sufficient space indoors to move around in and babies have suitable furniture for pulling themselves up on to help promote their physical development. Although parents supply children's food the childminder provides them with fresh fruit and biscuits for snacks. Children's allergies and special dietary requirements are recorded onto the child record form.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where necessary safety precautions are in place. These include gates to prevent children's access to the stairs and kitchen, socket covers, a fire blanket and a smoke detector. Children only play downstairs and are always supervised when going upstairs to the use the toilet and bathroom. Furniture, equipment and play resources are in good condition and meet the needs of the children. On outings children are kept safe by being strapped in the buggy or holding onto the childminder's hand. They are learning about personal safety as the childminder gives gentle reminders, indoors about the danger of running and outdoors teaches children about road safety. Children are not fully protected as although the childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of the four categories of abuse and is clear about her role and responsibility for recording and reporting her concerns, she is not very familiar with the current Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and very much at home with the childminder and her family. They can choose what they want to play with from a good range of age appropriate play resources that promote all areas of their learning and development. Children enjoy role play with dolls and dressing up clothes. They use a variety of construction activities and puzzles for problem solving and developing their creativity and small world toys for imaginative play. They also have access to musical toys, shapes sorters, activity centres and books. During the week they benefit from activities such as painting, drawing, water play and listening to stories. They socialise with other children at the childminder drop in group where they also take part in a variety of activities and they go the park and field for physical play. At the inspection children enjoyed good interaction with the childminder as she sits on the floor and joins in their play. She is skilled at using activities to help children to count and to learn shapes and colours. She constantly talks to children to encourage their language and thinking.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met. The childminder gathers information from parents during the gradual settling in period so that she is fully aware of children's medical history, family background, routines for eating and sleeping, language, religion, likes, dislikes and special requirements. Although children learn about diversity through the childminder's own culture, positive image play resources and outings in the community; there are no resources to help children learn about disability. The childminder has a positive attitude to inclusion and would like to attend further training to help her care for a child with a learning difficulty or disability. Strategies for managing behaviour are very much focussed on positive reinforcement, with children receiving lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self esteem. The childminder has some house rules which are discussed with parents and children prior to starting. Children are given clear and simple explanations as to the behaviour the childminder requires. They are encouraged to share, take turns and say please and thank you. Partnership with parents is good. Information is shared daily when children are dropped and collected. New parents are provided with information about her childminding practice and include some written policies and procedures which parents are required to sign, together with contracts, child record and consent forms.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by an enthusiastic childminder who is keen to attend further training in order to update her childcare practice. She has already completed her registration and first aid training as well attending a course on the Birth to three matters framework. Children are safeguarded as appropriate checks have been completed on the childminder and her daughter, who works as her assistant when she is home from university. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the National Standards and the conditions of her registration. Her home and play resources are well organised so that children are kept safe and can make choices about their play. They receives good adult support. All necessary documentation is in place for the safe and efficient management of the provision and includes some policies and procedures. The provider meets the needs of the range of children from whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 complaint 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):

- include a written policy on the exclusion of sick children
- extend knowledge of current Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- provide children with resources that promote disability

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