

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY303071
Inspection date	03 April 2008
Inspector	Marcia Robinson
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 2005. She lives with her husband, their adult daughter and 8 year old son in a three bedroom house in the area of Abbey wood in the London Borough of Greenwich. The whole of the ground floor, including the conservatory, living room and bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children aged under eight years. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school. The family has one pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop and test their physical skills through a good range of stimulating daily indoor and outdoor experiences. These include dancing indoors to a variety of different music tapes and CDs. Children play in the garden with a good assortment of apparatus and outdoor play

equipment including swing ball and a trampoline. The childminder also takes children to the nearby park where they can run freely, use the climbing equipment and enjoy exercise in the fresh air. Children are active or restful through choice, as babies and toddlers sleep in line with their individual needs and parents' wishes, thus enhancing their well-being. A varied and imaginative menu encourages children to have a good awareness of healthy meal options and the opportunity to try new foods. Meals include spaghetti bolognese, meatballs with mashed potatoes and vegetables. Snacks include toasted cheese sandwiches, pasta salad, yogurts and fresh fruit. Children take part in interesting food related activities, such as helping to make home-made bread and trying new tastes from around the world such as pizza. This encourages healthy eating and good lifestyle habits.

The childminder has effective systems to administer medication, including clear records in place for recording medication and accidents, which are shared with parents and carers. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and keeps a suitably stocked first aid box on the premises and one is taken on outings. This ensures children's health is safeguarded. Comprehensive policies and good relationships with parents ensures individual children are cared for well should they become ill, reducing the risk of cross infection. This includes a clear sickness exclusion policy, which is shared with parents and carers. Children are learning about the importance of good personal hygiene and are becoming increasingly independent in their personal care. For example, they use liquid soap or anti-bacterial wipes to clean their hands before eating and after using the toilet. It is also through well-planned activities and routines, that children are learning how to keep their teeth clean as they regularly visit the local dentist. This fosters children's emerging understanding of how to help stop germs spreading and how to keep themselves well and healthy. Furthermore, the childminder ensures her dog is in good health and that careful feeding and cleaning procedures are in place. Relevant documentation with regard to health, including specific dietary needs and consent forms are in place and up to date. These positively safeguard children's well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very well cared for in a home which includes a purpose built extension that is welcoming and has been very carefully set up with children in mind. For example, high opening windows enable children to benefit from natural light and this promotes children's safety whilst playing indoors. Examples of children's art work, photographs and some procedures are wall displayed, creating a warm and welcoming environment for children. They are safeguarded very well as the childminder's home is safe and secure. This is supplemented with effective procedures for adults collecting children, including the use of a password system if needed. Children are kept safe on outings as they learn road safety procedures and understand simple rules. These include using the pelican crossing where possible and holding hands when crossing the road. This is complemented with the use of age-appropriate restraints, such as reins when needed. Children can participate in activities appropriately as they are supervised at all times by the childminder, including when using the trampoline and playing outside in the garden.

The childminder carries out daily safety checks of the premises both inside and outside, to ensure children are kept safe and secure. All necessary action has been taken to reduce risks to children. This includes smoke detectors, safety gates and electrical socket covers are positioned where necessary. Children are learning about the rules for safe play, such as no climbing on the furniture as they could fall and hurt themselves. Although details are not recorded, children are involved in regular fire drills, which help them to become familiar with the procedures to be followed in an emergency. The childminder has all the required procedures

and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has previously attended child protection training and demonstrates a sound understanding of associated issues. Consequently, children are safeguarded reasonably well.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and secure as a result of the childminder's praise and support. They enjoy their time in the childminding environment and are happy to join in with the activities provided. These include looking at books, using puzzles and dressing up. Children find the resources fun and sufficiently challenging, which helps to develop appropriate levels of concentration. They benefit from a flexible routine including a balance of child-centred and adult-led activities. Children are developing meaningful social relationships when they play games together, so they are learning to share and take turns and when sitting together at mealtimes. Effective use is made of the local area giving children a breadth of opportunities. Examples of this are where they visit the farm and the library to look at books and to enjoy story time sessions. The childminder follows children's interests, for instance, children's curiosity on gardening and how things grow was encouraged with a gardening theme where children were involved in planting bulbs and digging in the garden. This experience, stimulates children's curiosity and increases their knowledge of the natural world.

Children's creativity is nurtured as they experiment with different media and explore their own ideas. This includes manipulating play dough, creating towers out of blocks and making masks for Halloween. They develop mathematical thinking when they weigh ingredients for baking, score when playing games and describe how tall their tower is when building with constructional toys. Children delight in using their imagination, for instance, when they build a model out of bricks and feed their dollies. Their communication skills are fostered resulting in good interactions between themselves and the childminder. Children enjoy mark making and have a range of resources available, such as felt tip pens, crayons and paint. This results in them developing good hand and eye coordination. Children's all round development is enhanced well as a wide range of activities and resources are on offer, which include relevant outings to the local grocers where they talk about and choose their favourite fruits and vegetables. The childminder considers children's interests and abilities in planning a good range of interesting activities for the children. Although, this is still an area of practice that is being developed, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child development and her knowledge of the Birth to three matters and early years foundation stage framework, is continuing to grow.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder interacts warmly with the children and carefully supports new children while they settle into the new environment. She is sensitive to children and their family's individual circumstances. Consequently, she tailors the induction to meet their specific needs. Parents and carers share information about their child with the childminder at the outset of childminding arrangements. Consequently, individual needs are met well. The childminder's positive attitude to equal opportunities encourages children's growing awareness of the wider community. For instance, themes where the children taste foods and celebrate festivals from around the world, positively impacts on raising their awareness and understanding of differences. This is supplemented with a wide variety of resources reflecting positive images of the world they live in. These include dolls, books, puzzles and small world figures depicting different cultures,

racism, religions and disabilities. The childminder does not have any experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and has not attended any training. However, she does demonstrate a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment.

Children play harmoniously with each other, their care and welfare is positively encouraged by the childminder who is able to manage a wide range of behaviour that is appropriate to the needs and the developmental stage of the children attending. Children's good behaviour is actively encouraged through positive role modelling, meaningful praise and valuing good behaviour. This is complimented by the childminder who involves the older children in devising a set of simple house rules. She also discusses and agrees strategies with parents and carers, before their children start to attend to ensure continuity of care. The childminder communicates with parents and carers on a daily basis, giving them detailed feedback about their children's care, routine and well-being. This is supported by some written information about the childminding setting, including the complaints procedure, which is in place and shared with parents as well as other procedures relating to fire safety, children's behaviour, activity plans and procedures for sick children. Consequently, the good relationship with parents and carers has a positive impact on the consistency of care the children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's play opportunities are maximised through the effective organisation of space, time and resources. The lounge is carpeted, which enables babies to crawl comfortably. The conservatory has a large table where children can sit together at meal times. This encourages children's social skills. The large garden gives children the opportunity to explore and investigate both independently and with others. Most of the resources are stored at the children's height, which promotes free choice and independence. The flexible routine incorporates time to visit places of interest and to take and pick up children from school.

The childminder's ongoing commitment to training has a positive impact on the good quality of care provided. Children's welfare is safeguarded very well, as the childminder and other household members, including her husband who works as her assistant, have all had suitable checks completed. The childminder is aware of her current registration requirements and adheres to them effectively. For instance, she displays her certificate of registration and informed Ofsted when her conservatory was being built. This has a positive impact on children's well-being. Documentation for each child is organised well and stored confidentially. Consequently, their privacy is respected at all times.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that all records are stored confidentially and to obtain written parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice and treatment. The childminder has positively addressed both of these, which has a positive impact on children's well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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

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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):

- continue to promote children's play and learning, for instance by extending the planning of activities in line with the latest framework for early years, such as Birth to three matters.

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