



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 139549
Inspection date 27 August 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 satisfactory. 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 1999. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one child aged 15 years. They live in a house in the London Borough of Sutton, close to local shops and parks. All areas on the ground floor are used for childminding, one room is set up as play room. A garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under the aged of eight years. She is presently minding five children under eight years on a part time basis.

The childminder takes children on regular outings to local parks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

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

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children are provided with foods which they enjoy. Children are offered a variety of foods and are able to make choices of what they want to eat. They are offered fruit each day to encourage healthy eating. To prevent children getting thirsty or dehydrated they are encouraged to ask for a drink when they want one and are provided with drinks at meal times.

Children have opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Through using equipment to climb, slide, play ball games and ride bikes in the childminders garden, this helps them to develop control of their bodies. They benefit from visiting parks on a regular basis. They are able to run and use swings and large climbing equipment to promote their physical skills and they receive plenty of fresh air and exercise. Children also have time to relax as well as be active.

The childminder keeps documentation to record accidents and any medication given and this ensures that children's health needs are met and information is shared with the parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home environment and have sufficient space to play. The childminder has taken action to minimise risks in the home by making most hazardous items inaccessible to them. However children are not fully safeguarded because there is a glass mirror and hazards in a lower kitchen cupboard. The risks to children outside the home are reduced because the childminder is conscientious about ensuring children are safe on outings. For example, she talks to children about crossing the road safely and appropriate restraints are used when children travel in a vehicle.

Children are well supervised throughout the day, due to appropriate organization by the childminder of the layout of the areas used for childminding. They are sufficiently protected by the childminders knowledge of child protection issues, but she does not have the local authorities procedures and contact numbers easily available in case they are required. To protect children's health the first aid box is complete and childminder has attended first aid training in the past and intends to up date her first

aid certificate. The childminder has not requested written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment which means children are not fully safeguarded in an emergency situation. The childminder is able to demonstrate fire evacuation procedures and has discussed these with the children, but they are not written, nor have been practiced which could compromise children's safety.

Children are able to independently select activities from a very wide range of clean and safe toys and resources, many of which are stored and displayed at their level. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's care needs are well met. The childminder takes steps to ensure their daily routines are continued and their dietary needs are 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 contributes to their sense of belonging.

Children's development and early learning is well supported by the resources available, because the childminder has a very good range of toys and resources set up in a playroom, which children can freely access. They enjoy choosing between a variety of toys which appeal to them, playing with them on the floor and putting them away and getting more toys out. Children benefit from constant attention from the child minder who joins in with their play. For example, she helped put the animals in rows of different sizes and discussed big and little with the child. The child confidently peddled a bike around the room, telling the childminder about the toys he had got in the basket.

Children are freely able to choose art and craft materials, which contributes to their creative development. Children's fine motor skills are developed through drawing activities and doing various puzzles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's needs are well met. The childminder obtains from the parents details of children's individual likes and dislikes, daily needs and daily routine before she begins caring for them. She follows their normal routine as discussed with their parents. Information is shared with parents about their child's day and dietary intakes on a daily basis.

Regular trips out of the home to parks to feed the ducks and use park play equipment introduce children to the local community. Children are encouraged to play with all the toys, regardless of gender. However, children have few opportunities to develop an awareness of diversity through activities and play resources relating to positive

images of culture and disability.

The childminders use of praise to reinforce positive behaviour and acknowledge efforts and achievements contributes towards children's high level of self esteem. They play and behave well and are encouraged to share toys, take turns and show consideration for each other. Children have time to relax as well as be active.

Although the childminder is not currently caring for any children with special needs, she demonstrated an awareness of how to meet their needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and secure in a well organised home which helps them gain confidence and be independent. The environment is laid out to make the most of space and maximise children's play opportunities and for children to play freely. The playroom is organised so resources are accessible to children, which enables them to confidently initiate their own play. The childminder makes appropriate use of contracts to invite discussions with parents about their individual needs. She uses this information to promote the welfare and care of the children. Most required records are kept, which contribute to children's health, safety and well being. Two members of the house hold over 16 years old are in the process of undergoing the required checks. 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 setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Recommendations were imposed at the last inspection. Since the previous inspection, the childminder has improved the welfare and the safety of children, as she has now obtained written permission from the parents for transporting children in her car.

The childminder has improved fire precautions, because she has talked to children about the evacuation from the house in case of a fire, but they have not practised the fire evacuation plan. Therefore children's well-being and safety are not fully protected.

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 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):

- devise a written escape plan, which is practised with the children on a regular basis and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure glass mirror and glassware in lower cupboards are made safe or inaccessible to children
- extend range of activities and play resources that promote positive images of gender, disability and culture

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