



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124779
Inspection date	15 December 2005
Inspector	Sandra Patricia Jeffrey

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 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged 16 and 19 years. They live in a three-bedroom house, in a residential area within the London borough of Sutton.

The whole of the ground floor of the property and the master bedroom are available for childminding. Bathroom facilities are on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time

and is currently minding three children aged under 8 years, all of whom attend part-time.

The childminder speaks Gujarati, Hindi and understands Urdu.

The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm and caring environment where they learn to follow good daily hygiene procedures. Children receive appropriate support to develop good personal hygiene skills. They learn the importance of hand washing after toileting and before meals to prevent the spread of infection.

Children have good opportunities to learn about physical exercise and a healthy lifestyle through having regular opportunities for fresh air, for example, they enjoy regular trips to the local park. This regular physical exercise contributes to keeping them healthy.

The procedures in place for administering medication to children are effective. However, written parental permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment is not available. This poses a risk to children's health and welfare.

Children receive a range of healthy meals and snacks including fresh fruit and vegetables. Drinks are available throughout the day. The childminder respects parental wishes and the children's choice; this ensures that the food provided meets all of the children's dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play freely. Children have easy and safe access to toys and resources that are stimulating and suitable for the children's stage of development. Children independently select from this range of toys, which gives them freedom of choice.

Although children are comfortable and confident in their environment, the childminder has not identified all safety risks. For example, windows on the first floor are easily accessible and are not safe. These compromise children's safety.

Fire safety arrangements are good and the childminder has an emergency evacuation procedure, which the children practice.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures in line with

the latest government guidance. This safeguards and promotes children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's home. The childminder ensures she has good knowledge of the children she cares for and has a routine, which enables children to feel secure and comfortable.

Children make themselves at home and have a warm and secure relationship with the childminder. Children receive lots of affection from her and they respond well to the attention given to them.

Children enjoy and learn from a range of activities that allow them to explore and investigate. They are developing an interest in puzzles and enjoy listening to stories. A good balance of adult and child initiated games and activities help children to make progress in all areas of learning.

Children are beginning to understand differences in their own lives from others around them. They talk happily about their home life and family. Simple house rules help the children to know what is acceptable in the childminding environment and help create a welcoming play environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder treats children with respect and uses praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem, which contributes to the children's sense of well-being. Children learn important social skills, such as, why it is kind to share and to take turns. They are encouraged to understand and appreciate other cultures. This encourages children to develop a positive attitude towards diversity.

The childminder has not cared for children with special needs recently, but displayed a positive attitude to caring for children with such needs.

Children behave well and know what the behaviour boundaries are within the home. Behaviour management is appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.

Relationships with parents are friendly and flexible. Children are cared for according to the needs of the parents and their work patterns.

The childminder is aware of recent changes in legal requirements in relation to complaints and investigations and is aware that she is to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to follow if they have any cause for concern about the service or the care of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises layout is appropriately organised to allow children to play freely both inside and outside during the day. The childminder uses her time well and children benefit from good adult support. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

Most records are well maintained, with the exception of minor omissions in the children's details. This could result in the needs of the children not being met. All records are confidentially stored.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to establish written agreements with parents, to make sure all household members over the age of 16 years undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks and to obtain the Government booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'.

These are now all in place and ensure children's safety and well-being is paramount.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.

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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure first floor windows are made safe or inaccessible
- improve record keeping: include children's date of birth when recording children's details

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