



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139874
Inspection date	30 September 2005
Inspector	Sue Boylan

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 in 1989. She lives with her adult son in the London Borough of Sutton. The whole of the ground floor and one bedroom are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder walks to a local school to take and collect children. She attends a toddler group, childminder's drop-in and goes to the park with the children.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two children, one of whom is full-time

The family have one pet cat.

The childminder is NNEB qualified and is a member of the National Childminder's Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm home where they are taught the importance of washing your hands before a meal and after using the toilet. There are effective health and hygiene procedures in place which ensures the children are protected from cross contamination, for example, the children have individual towels and the childminder uses disposable gloves when preparing food and changing nappies. The sickness policy ensures children are not at risk from infectious illness.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health and physical development. They learn to control their bodies through both indoor and outdoor play, for example, going regularly to the park to use the climbing equipment and play football. Children's fine motor skills are developing well with the use of resources such as pencils, bricks, scissors and glue.

Parents choose to provide all meals and snacks which ensures individual dietary requirements are met. Drinks are available at all times with children asking for more if their cup is empty. This encourages them to think about their own personal needs. The childminder's first aid knowledge ensure children receive prompt treatment in the event of an accident. The first aid box is checked monthly to ensure it is kept fully stocked which contributes towards children's welfare.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around freely and safely around the home as the childminder identifies and minimises risks for the children, such as installing safety gates, having the gas boiler checked and being vigilant in her supervision. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, they are aware the stair gate is to stop access to the kitchen, "where food is hot".

She has produced a written child protection procedure to ensure children's welfare is protected and parents are made aware of her responsibility if she suspects a child is being abused or neglected.

There is sufficient equipment that allows children to rest, eat and play in comfort and security. Children can independently select resources from a wide range of good quality toys providing a stimulating environment.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy exploring a range of activities which contribute to their creativity such as leaf painting, icing biscuits and play dough. They have good opportunities to socialise with regular outings to a toddler group held in a local book shop where children can participate in singing, music and movement and listening to stories. They extend their imagination by dressing up and making up games using animals and the Noah's ark. Children enjoy planting seeds, they learn that you have to water plants to make them grow. A favourite activity for the garden is blowing bubbles and playing skittles where children laugh and have a fun time contributing to their physical and emotional well-being.

Children enjoy close relationships with the childminder and her family. They thrive on the attention and affection provided developing good communication and social skills. Children are encouraged to ask questions with the childminder listening and responding positively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and treated as part of the family where they are confident and at ease with the childminder. They ask for drinks, toys and for help with an activity. The routine is structured with flexibility and children know what to expect on a daily basis which ensures individual needs are taken into account at all times. Children are well behaved because of the good relationship fostered. The childminder's use of praise and encouragement build children's self esteem.

Partnership with parents is extremely good. They are kept fully informed about their child's day with verbal and written feedback, which contributes to children's well-being and consistency in care. The childminder produces a book filled with photographs, art work, sayings and achievements presented to parents when their child leaves her care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Space and resources are organised appropriately so that children are well cared for. There is good adult support with one child under 5 years minded during the day. The day is planned so there are sufficient opportunities for children to relax as well as be active. The childminder has high regard for children's well-being and is keen to update her knowledge on child care issues, such as the Birth to Three Framework. There are some written policies and procedures which guide the childminder in her day to day management of the children including complaints with parents signing to confirm they are aware who to contact if they have a concern about the care provided. Most of the required records are in place, however the attendance book

does not provide enough information on the hours the children attend. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain a copy of the local Area Child Protection Committee Guidelines. These are now in place ensuring the childminder knows who to contact if she has concerns about a child's welfare.

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 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):

- ensure the departure times of the children are recorded

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