



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY301649
Inspection date 14 December 2005
Inspector Tracy Maria Clarke

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 2005. She lives in Tooting, South West London, and her home is within close proximity of shops, local amenities and transport facilities.

The childminder lives with her husband and one child aged 6-years.

The ground floor of the property is mainly used for childminding, consisting of a lounge, kitchen/dining room and conservatory on ground floor, and one bedroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for 4 children under 8-years; of these, not more than 3 may be aged under 5 years, and no more than 1 may be under 1-year. The childminder currently cares for one child aged 11-months, who was present during the inspection.

The childminder is a member of the Wandsworth Childminding Association and the National Childminding Association. She receives support and training from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, tidy and well organised home that is warm and welcoming to children and their families. Children's meals are supplied by parents, although the childminder provides healthy snacks, as necessary. The food supplied is nutritious and varied, and the childminder stores and serves it appropriately, taking account of good food hygiene procedures. Children remain healthy as the childminder undertakes detailed discussions with parents to ensure her awareness of their individual dietary needs and allergies. Children's healthy eating is encouraged by the childminder through discussion and example. The children have snacks of fruit throughout the day and drinks of water are always available. Children are encouraged to develop independence and good eating routines. For example, children and the childminder sit together at the table, making meal times a social occasion.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene practice, personal care and independence through their daily routines. The childminder follows sound procedures to reduce the risk of cross infection. For example, every child has their own clean flannel to use every day. Children benefit from the good communication between parents and the childminder, which ensures that their individual needs and medical history are known. There are effective systems in place to record accidents and medication and the childminder has undertaken first aid training, which enables her to provide appropriate medical care for the children who attend.

The children benefit from physical activity and exercise to help them develop control of their bodies and extend their physical skills. Children enjoy indoor active play. For example, when the baby is present, the childminder sings 'Row, row, row your boat', and both rock to the music. When the song is finished the baby claps her hands in glee. The childminder creates plenty of space so that the baby can crawl around, exploring the environment. The baby is able to pull herself up to standing, thanks to the encouragement and positive praise given by the childminder. Regular outings to the local park offer further opportunities for the children to improve their physical skills. For example, they acquire skills as they climb up the steps of the climbing frame and are given support to come down the slide. The childminder is committed to taking children out daily, so they get plenty of fresh air and develop a healthy attitude towards exercise. The childminder's garden provides a child friendly space which they access in the warmer weather.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are given clear boundaries and the childminder ensures children are safe when they go out. For example the youngest child is strapped into the buggy whilst older children hold onto the buggy. The childminder encourages children to develop an awareness of road safety by crossing on quiet roads, or using pelican and zebra crossings. The childminder transports children regularly in her car, and has all the necessary car documentation.

Children benefit from a child friendly, clean and well arranged home. The children are safe and secure in this environment as the play space is well organised and the children can access toys within easy reach. Children are able to move freely and independently around the home because the childminder has taken measures to reduce potential risks, and she positions herself effectively to monitor children's movements. Children have access to rooms which are safe, and there is a good selection of toys, books and play materials which are stored and presented effectively. However, there are a few cleaning products in the kitchen which are within children's reach. Children can independently select activities and the childminder monitors and ensures these are suitable for the children's age and stage of development. The children are made aware of the importance of using toys and play equipment safely through anticipation, explanation and discussion with the childminder.

Children's welfare is safeguarded due to the childminder's sound awareness of child protection issues. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows the procedure to follow should she have concerns about a child in her care, although she does not have a copy of the local area child protection guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a range of activities that meet their needs and they have plenty of opportunities to explore the environment. They are happy, comfortable and content, and relate well to the childminder. Children are given very good levels of care and support as the childminder interacts warmly and affectionately, and provides children with plenty of cuddles. For example, the childminder sits with the baby and they sing a song, again, with the baby mimicking the childminder's words and actions. Their communication is encouraged as the childminder offers lots of praise, talks to children about what they are doing and offers children recognition, acceptance and comfort.

Children participate in a variety of play activities on a weekly basis, including visits to the park and attendance at a local mother and toddler group, where they can access a wide range of resources and equipment and take part in activities such as arts and crafts. These regular outings enable children to undertake new experiences, to socialise with others, and to use a larger range of small and large equipment. For example, the childminder takes children to a local music and movement group where

they enjoy playing a range of percussion instruments and learning a wide range of songs and action rhymes. Within the home the childminder organises a range of activities which enable them to listen and respond. For example, the baby enjoys snuggling up with the childminder to listen to a story, being encouraged to repeat familiar words and experience the tactile textures contained within the book. Children's individual needs and routines are very well met, in an environment where they experience a warm, consistent standard of care and are encouraged to progress and develop their independence and confidence.

Children have access to a good range of age appropriate toys and equipment, which includes manufactured resources and musical instruments. Children are interested and involved in the activities available. For example, they enjoy sensory stimulation such as coloured lights and noises when playing with the musical toys. However, they don't have regular opportunities to experiment and explore a range of media, differing textures and messy play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's appropriate behaviour management strategies, such as anticipation and distraction. The childminder has a positive approach with children, speaking to them calmly and gently, whilst encouraging them to develop an awareness of her expectations. They are valued and respected as individuals and their needs are met as the childminder gets to know them well. She works closely with parents to establish information about their routines and personal needs with a daily exchange of information, which ensures that children experience consistent care. For example, the childminder completes written daily sheets regarding children's eating and sleeping routines, nappy changes and activities undertaken, and provides parents with a copy every day.

Children have access to the full range of activities offered, and they are taken out into the local diverse community every day. She has a few resources within the home which promote equality, and children are able to access a wider range at the groups attended, which encourages their awareness of others.

The childminder has not undertaken the care of children with special needs, although she is aware of the importance of sharing developmental delays with parents and of the need to offer inclusion within her provision.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's safety, well being and health is effectively supported and monitored by the childminder because all of the required documentation is very well maintained. She offers strong levels of support and supervision to children, and organises the day well, so children are encouraged to make good all round progress. She shares information, both written and verbal with parents, which keeps them informed about

their children's development and the care that is provided.

Children are comfortable and secure in a well organised environment, which helps them gain confidence and independence. Children have sufficient space in which to play because the childminder organises her home well, ensuring that toys are provided in all rooms children access, and that children are able to make independent choices in their play. She takes children out every day, making good use of local facilities to ensure that children have access to any even wider range of equipment and resources to play with, and remain excited and motivated to learn. Overall, therefore, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides a service.

Improvements since the last inspection

This was the childminder's first inspection since becoming registered.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to Ofsted since registration.

The childminder 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):

- ensure children cannot access cleaning products stored within the kitchen and obtain a copy of the local area (ACPC) child protection procedures
- provide further opportunities for children to make connections through their senses and experiment creatively with a range of media, materials and natural resources

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