



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY245097
Inspection date	28 February 2006
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 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 2001. She lives with her partner and two children aged 14 and 4 years. They live in a house in Morden, in the London Borough of Merton, close to local shops, parks and schools. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and two bedrooms are used for sleeping purposes only. There is a secure garden available for outside play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for five children at any one time. When working with an assistant the childminder is registered to care for seven children at any one time. She is

currently minding four children all of whom attend on a full time basis.

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 helped to learn about good hygiene practice, such as washing hands before meals and wiping their hands with wet wipes, when necessary. The childminder 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 meet their dietary needs. Children benefit from nutritious meals and daily provision of fresh fruit. This encourages children's fondness of healthy eating. Children are provided with ample drinks to ensure they do not get dehydrated or thirsty.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have opportunities to ride bikes, use swings and move through tunnels in the garden all through the year, which helps them to develop control of their bodies. Children benefit from visiting parks on a regular basis, where they are able to run, play ball games and use climbing equipment to promote their physical skills and receive plenty of fresh air and exercise. Children have time to relax as well as be active.

The childminder keeps documentation to record accidents and any medication given. This ensures that children's health needs are met and information is shared with the parents. Children who are infectious do not attend thus preventing the spread of contagious ailments.

The first aid box is well stocked and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate, so is able to administer first aid in the event of an accident. Children are protected in a medical emergency situation because the childminder has written parental consent for emergency medical treatment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around the home safely because the childminder has taken action to minimise risks and by making hazardous items inaccessible to them. This means they are able to move around safely and independently. The childminder reduces the risks outside of the home because she is conscientious about ensuring children are safe on outings. For example, she uses reins with younger children when they are walking and uses appropriate restraints when travelling in the vehicle. To help children learn about road safety she talks to children about crossing the road at the green man.

Children are well supervised throughout the day, due to appropriate organisation of the childminder and the layout of the areas used for childminding. They are protected by the childminders good knowledge of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

Children are safeguarded by appropriate fire safety equipment in place and in working order. The childminder is able to demonstrate fire evacuation procedures she would carry out. However children would benefit from the emergency escape plan being further developed and practised on a more regular basis, so they become familiar with the procedures to follow in the event of a fire

Children independently select activities from a wide range of play resources, many of which are stored and placed 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 are confident and settled within the childminder's home. They relate well to her because she joins in with their play and is very positive in her interaction. The children enjoy the close contact with the childminder and respond well to her encouragement. Children experience a good range of activities both in and outside of the home, this contributes to their development.

Children benefit from the childminder's organisation of the play materials to meet children's individual developmental needs and interests, as a result children spend their time purposefully and are motivated to play and enjoy choosing between a good variety of toys, books and equipment which appeal to them. Children enjoy exploring a wide range of activities which contribute to their creativity, such as painting, baking and playing with sand and water on a regular basis.

Children enjoy playing games with the childminder which help them to learn about, colours, shapes and numbers. Children's learning is further developed on outings, when the childminder talks to the children about the colours of cars and counting with children when walking up and down steps. They enjoy looking at books and having short stories read to them by the childminder. This helps children develop an interest in this area and contributes to developing their communication skills. Children's fine motor skills are developed within the environment. For example, doing puzzles and playing with toys which involve pressing buttons and turning knobs.

Children gain from attending toddler groups, where they have opportunities to meet other children and adults and access art, craft activities and singing sessions, which further contribute to their enjoyment, creativity and enhances their all round development.

Children benefit from regular outings to the library, physical activity groups and farms visits, which promotes their learning and stimulates their interests in the wider world.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Children are well settled because the childminder places good emphasis on making children feel very welcome. Their needs are well met as the childminder obtains from the parents details of children's individual likes, dislikes and daily routine, before she begins caring for them. She follows their normal routine as discussed with their parents, this ensures consistency of care. Information is exchanged between the childminder and the parent on a daily basis, which keeps them informed of their child's daily routines and dietary intakes.

Regular trips out of the home to parks and various groups introduce children to the local community and awareness of the wider world. Children have opportunities to increase their knowledge of diversity through activities relating to different culture celebrations. To develop children's awareness of others they are provided with a good range of resources and books reflecting positive images of diversity, which are fully integrated into every day play.

The childminders use of praise to reinforce positive behaviour and acknowledgements of achievements contributes towards children's high level of self esteem. They play and behave well and are encouraged to share toys and take turns.

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

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and secure in a well organised home, which helps them gain confidence and allows them to be independent. The environment is laid out to make the most of space and maximise children's play opportunities and for them to play freely. Children receive the childminder's full attention, as she dedicates her time to them when they are present.

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. All required records and policies are kept, which contribute to children's health, safety and well being. 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 childminder regularly updates her knowledge by attending relevant childcare courses. This ensures she keeps up with current child care practices to support the care and learning of the children. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since last the 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):

- further develop the emergency escape plan and practise it on a regular basis, so children become familiar with it

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